



SOUTHEAST

Workforce Report

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Executive Summary

Southeast, Manitoba is characterized by a large population with at least secondary education and a labour market that remains broadly work-oriented, though not without some recent strain. In 2021, residents with a high school diploma or equivalent substantially outnumbered those with no credential, and high school remained the single most common highest level of education. Over the previous five years, university credentials expanded strongly, particularly at the bachelor's level, while apprenticeship and trades certificates declined. This leaves a profile anchored in broad secondary completion but with visible growth in higher academic attainment.

The region's labour market shows a similarly mixed but generally solid picture. Employment is the dominant labour force status, most jobs are permanent rather than temporary, and full-year full-time work accounts for the clear majority of work activity. Participation and employment rates recovered from the sharp disruption seen in 2020 and remain comparatively strong against several other Manitoba regions in the data provided, even after some recent easing. At the same time, unemployment has moved up from its earlier low point, and the number of unemployed residents rose markedly in the most recent year. Work arrangements have also shifted: a usual workplace still accounts for the largest share of workers, but working from home grew rapidly and workers with no fixed workplace also increased.

Employment is concentrated in a limited group of sectors and occupations rather than spread evenly across the economy. Construction stands out as a leading employer and a major part of the resident labour force, alongside education and health care. Manufacturing, retail, and agriculture also remain significant, while shorter-term changes across industries are uneven. By occupation, the workforce is weighted toward trades and transport, sales and service, and business and administrative roles, with especially strong growth in natural resources and related production. The overall picture is of a region with a stable core of permanent, full-time work, a workforce centered on practical and service-oriented occupations, and a labour market that remains active even as some recent indicators have become less favourable.

High School Completion

In Southeast, Manitoba, the majority of residents aged 15 + hold a high school diploma, with 74,240 people versus 23,990 without any certificate in 2021.

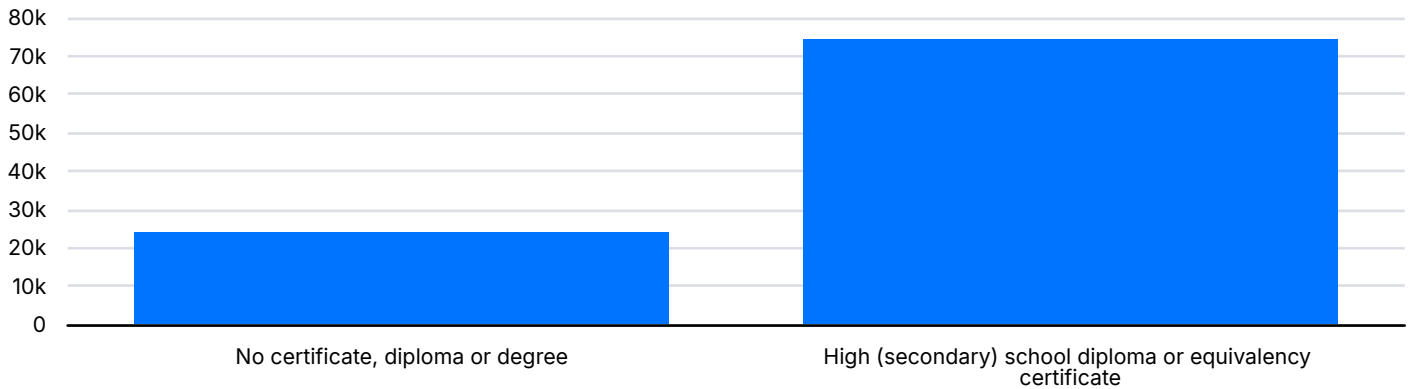


Figure 1.1: Shows whether residents have completed high school or an equivalent credential. It helps indicate a basic foundation for workforce participation and further study. (Southeast, 2021)¹

High school completion in Southeast is described by a 2021 census snapshot of residents aged 15 and over living in private households. In that year 74,240 people held a high (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate, while 23,990 reported no certificate, diploma or degree. The dataset contains only the 2021 cross-section, so change over time cannot be shown here. The distribution suggests a larger base of residents with secondary credentials than without, which is a basic indicator of workforce readiness.

High school completion in the Southeast (2021) shows a clear majority with secondary credentials. Of residents age 15+ in private households, 74,240 hold a high (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate while 23,990 report no certificate, diploma or degree. The three descendant census divisions reflect this same pattern. Division No. 2 accounts for the largest shares with 46,095 diploma holders versus 15,860 without credentials; Division No. 1 and Division No. 12 record smaller counts. These totals suggest the region’s population skews toward having at least a secondary credential.

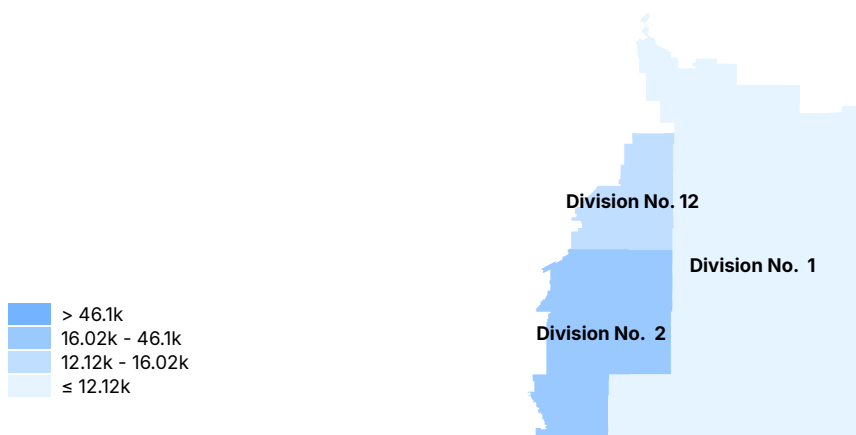


Figure 1.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Education Credential Ca - High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate (Southeast)¹

Highest Education Level

High school diplomas dominate the population in Southeast, Manitoba, with 32,935 residents in 2021, an 85% rise since 2016. This makes it the largest and fastest-growing education group, while bachelor's holders grew 48%.

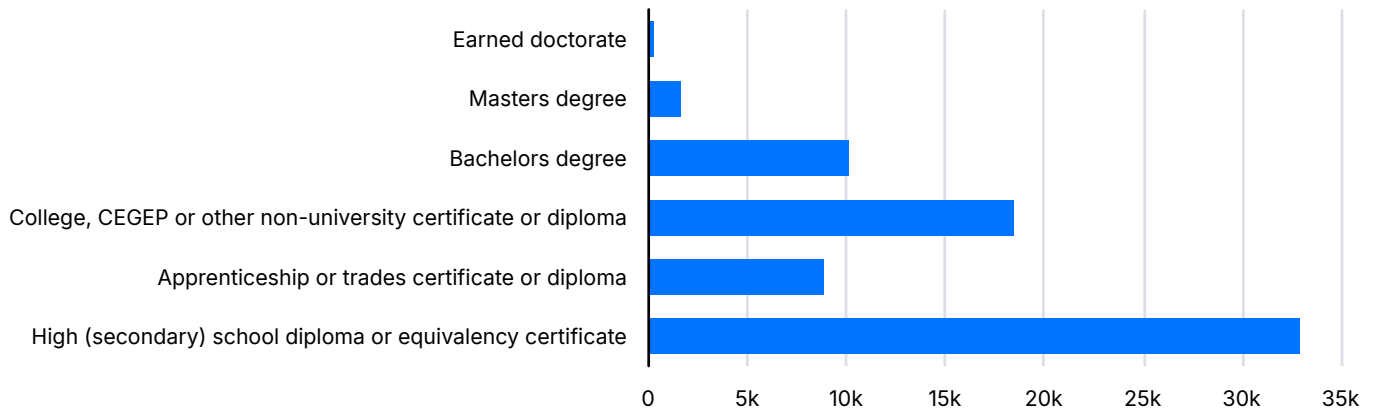


Figure 2.1: Shows the highest level of education completed by residents. It helps indicate the overall educational profile of the population. (Southeast, 2021)¹

The highest-education profile for Southeast (population aged 15 and over in private households) is dominated by residents whose top credential is a high (secondary) school diploma: 32,935 people hold that level. That group also recorded large five-year growth of 85.3%. Postsecondary credentials are smaller in count but show notable momentum: 10,155 residents hold a bachelors degree (up 48.5% over five years), 1,645 hold a masters degree (up 15.9%), and 275 hold an earned doctorate (up 48.6%). By contrast, apprenticeship or trades certificates total 8,855 and fell 6.1% over five years. Taken together, the data show a population where secondary completion remains the largest single category while university-level credentials have grown substantially in recent years, even as trades credentials edged down.

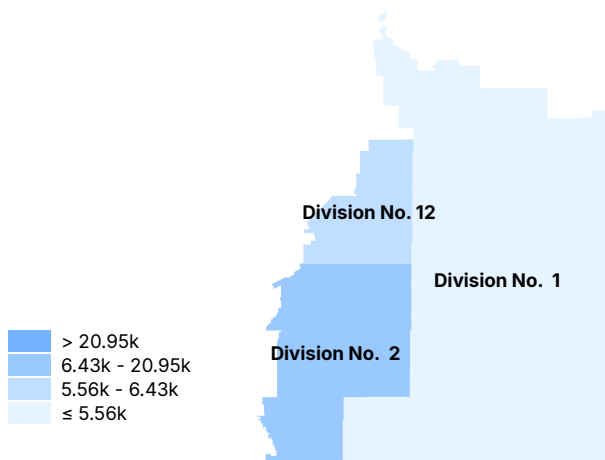


Figure 2.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Education Credential Ca - High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate (Southeast)¹

Southeast's population aged 15 and over is concentrated at the high-school level: 32,935 residents report a high (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate. That remains the single largest credential category in 2021. Postsecondary categories show recent gains in degree attainment. Bachelors degrees number 10,155 (5-year change +48.5%) and earned doctorates total 275 (+48.6%). Masters degrees are 1,645 (+15.9%). Apprenticeship or trades certificates total 8,855 and declined 6.1% over five years. The pattern suggests rising university-level credentials alongside a persistent high-school-majority base.

Labour Force Status

Southeast’s labour market is dominated by employed workers (7.49×10^4 people, up 2 % YoY), while the unemployed segment, though small at 4 000, surged 21 % over the past year, out of a labour force of about 79 000.

The labour force status of Southeast in January 2026 shows how residents aged 15 and over were participating in the labour market. The region had a substantial working population alongside a large group not participating in paid work; the snapshot and recent year-over-year movements help track short-term momentum. In January 2026 there were 75,400 employed residents, 4,400 unemployed residents and 35,800 people not in the labour force (population aged 15+ in private households). Over the prior year employed numbers rose by 1.3% while the

count of people not in the labour force increased by 1.4%. The unemployed count rose markedly by 46.7% compared with the same month one year earlier. Compared with the other two categories, employment represents the largest share of the 15+ population in this region, while the sharp one-year increase in the unemployed category shows recent upward movement in joblessness. This profile is based on the January 2026 labour force snapshot for Southeast.

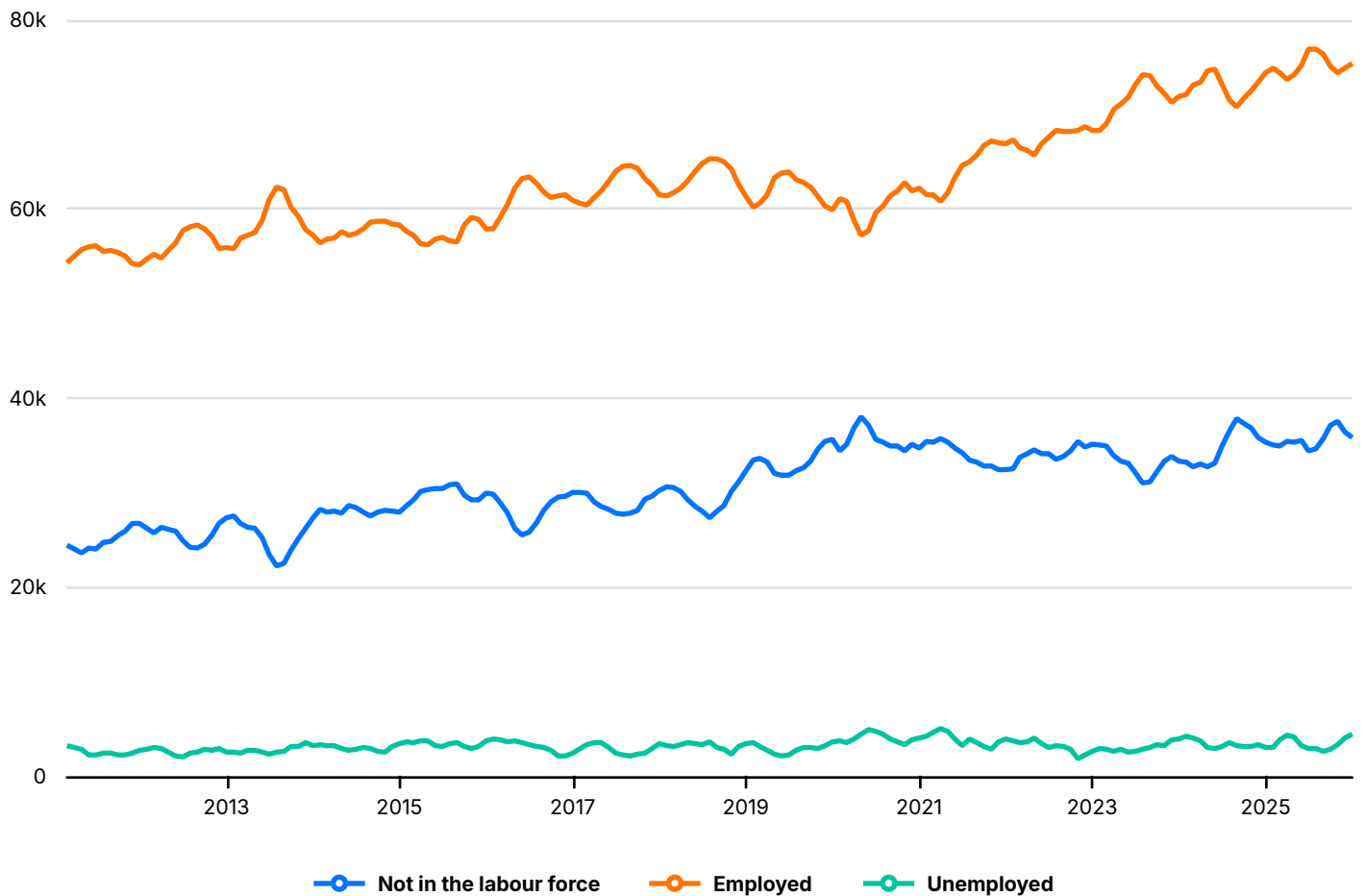


Figure 3.1: Shows whether residents are employed, unemployed, or not in the labour force. It helps indicate how people are participating in the labour market. (Southeast, 2011-2026)^{1,2,3,4}

Class of Worker

Most workers in Southeast Manitoba hold permanent positions, numbering 45,450 in 2021, far outpacing fixed-term jobs (1,750) and casual or seasonal roles (5,750). This reflects the dominant employment category among residents aged 15 and over.

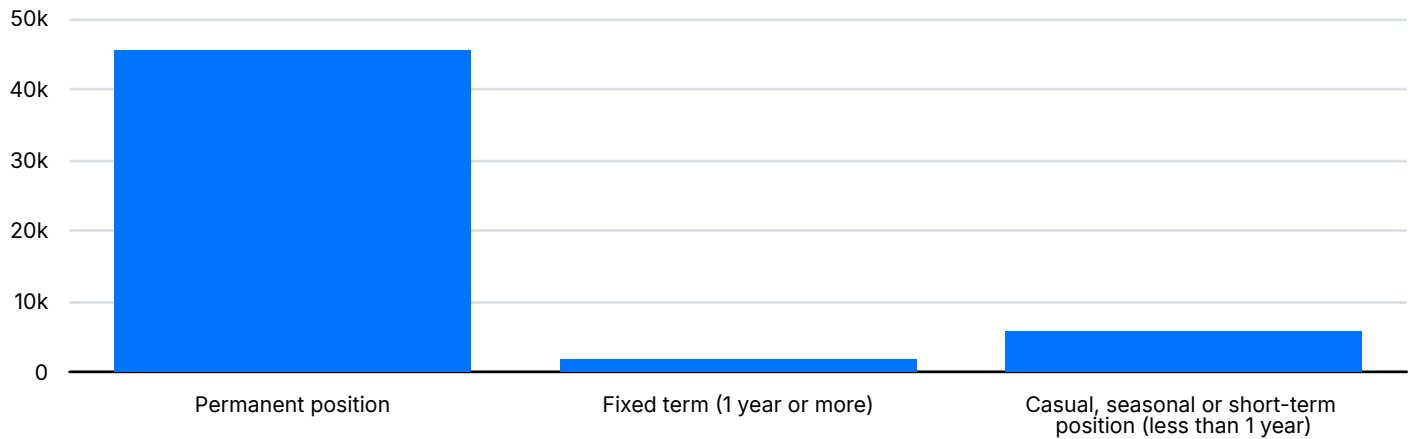
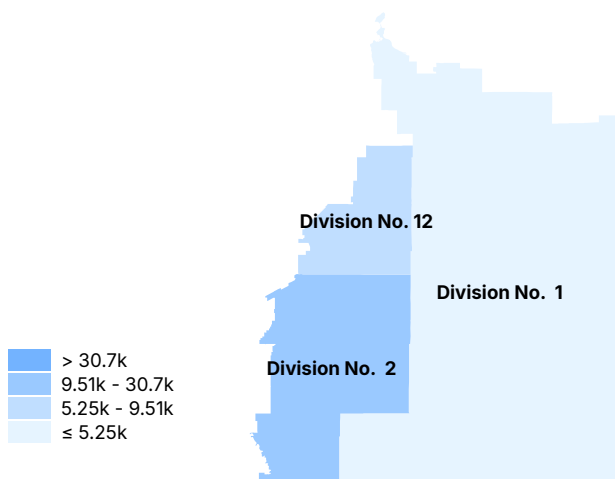


Figure 4.1: Shows whether workers are employees, self-employed, or unpaid family workers. It helps indicate the structure of work in the local economy. (Southeast, 2021)¹

The class-of-worker breakdown for Southeast (2021, residents aged 15 and over) shows most workers in ongoing employment rather than temporary arrangements. This snapshot describes the structure of work but does not include earlier censuses, so it cannot show trends over time. Permanent positions account for the largest share in absolute terms: 45,450 people. Shorter-term work includes 5,750 in casual, seasonal, or short-term positions (less than one year) and 1,750 in fixed-term jobs of one year or more. Within this single-year view, permanent employment clearly predominates, while temporary and fixed-term roles are smaller components of the local workforce. Overall, the 2021 picture emphasizes a workforce concentrated in permanent positions.



The class-of-worker profile for Southeast (2021) is dominated by permanent positions, with 45,450 people reporting permanent work compared with 1,750 on fixed-term contracts and 5,750 in casual, seasonal or short-term roles. Division No. 2 is the largest contributor of permanent workers (30,695), followed by Division No. 12 (9,510) and Division No. 1 (5,245). This pattern shows a workforce concentrated in permanent employment across the region.

Figure 4.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Class Of Worker - Permanent position (Southeast)¹

Work Activity

In Southeast's labour market is dominated by full-time, year-long workers – 62,400 people, a 4.7% rise from last year; part-time or part-year workers fell to 12,400, down 10.1% overall employment.

The Southeast economic region's work-activity profile in the 2026 reference period shows most residents reporting sustained employment over the year. The dataset categorizes activity as either working full year full time or working part year and/or part time for the population aged 15 and over in private households. The largest group is those who worked full year full time: 62,300 people. That category rose by 1.6% compared with the prior year. The part-year and/or part-time group counted

13,100 people, up 0.8% year over year. Viewed as a short-term trend, both categories increased between the two consecutive reference points provided, with full-year full-time work expanding at roughly double the rate of part-year or part-time work. The two figures together describe the region's distribution of annual work engagement in the specified universe for 2026. These statistics indicate modest upward momentum in work activity within the measured year.

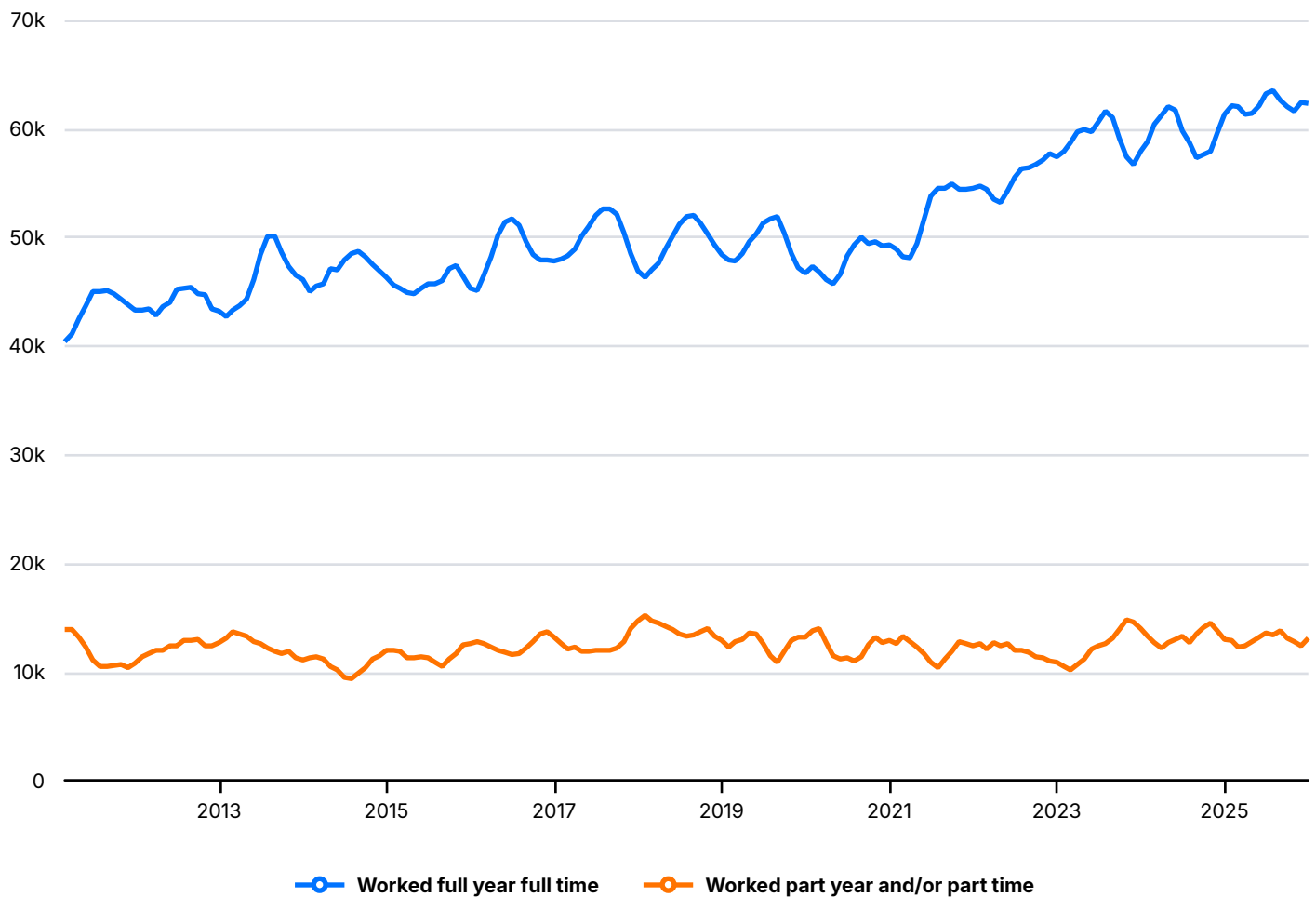


Figure 5.1: Shows the amount of work activity people had during the reference period. It helps indicate attachment to work over the year, not just at a single point in time. (Southeast, 2011-2026)^{1,2,3}

Labour Force Participation Rate

Southeast’s labour force participation held steady at 68.4 % in Dec 2025, edging up 0.29 % from the previous year after a dip to 68.2 % in Dec 2024. This suggests modest recovery following years of decline.

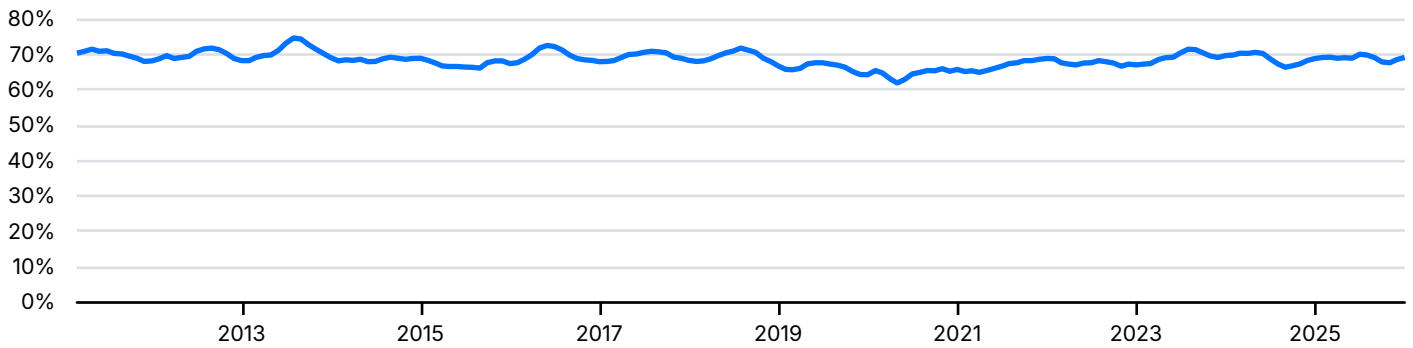


Figure 6.1: Shows the share of the working-age population that is employed or actively looking for work. It helps indicate the level of labour market engagement. (Southeast, 2011-2026)^{1,2,3,4}

The labour force participation rate in Southeast measures the share of people 15+ who are working or seeking work. Between 2011 and early 2026 it showed notable swings rather than a steady trend. Participation peaked near 74.5% in August 2013 and fell to a low of 61.8% in May 2020 (a year-over-year change of -8.0%). By January 2026 it reached 69.0%. After the 2020 drop the rate rebounded through 2021–2024 before moderating in 2025–2026. These movements indicate cyclical variation in labour market engagement over the period.

The labour force participation rate measures the share of people 15+ who are employed or actively looking for work. For Southeast, the most recent monthly value in the series is 69.0% (January 2026), showing sustained engagement relative to several Manitoba regions. Compared with Winnipeg (67.3% in January 2026) and South Central (65.9% in 2021), Southeast records a higher participation rate. Northern and more remote regions report substantially lower rates (North 52.7% in 2021). This pattern positions Southeast above the provincial urban centre and well above northern and Parklands figures in the provided data.

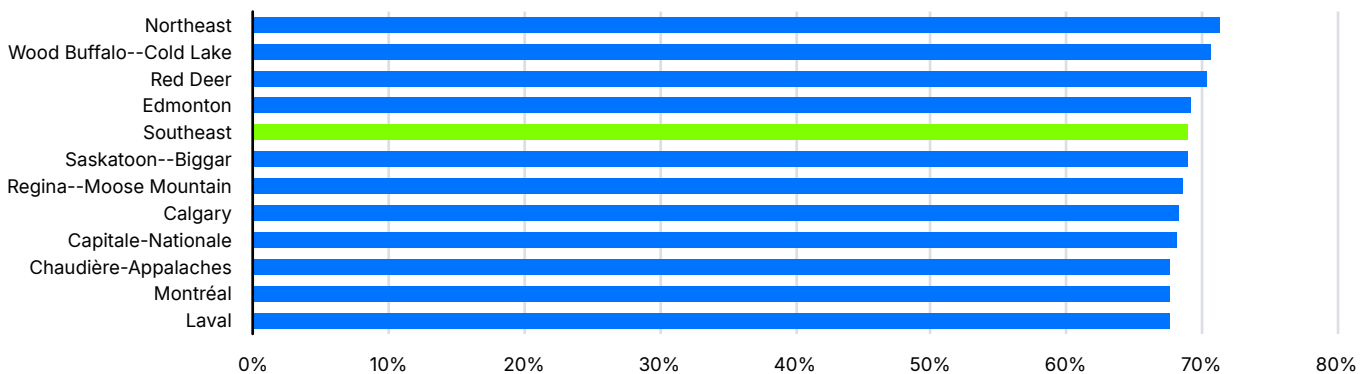


Figure 6.2: Comparison of Labour Force Participation Rate with other locations (Southeast, 2026)^{1,2,3,4}

Employment Rate

Southeast's employment rate stands at 65 % in December 2025, a modest 0.3-point drop from the previous year after falling to 57 % in 2020.

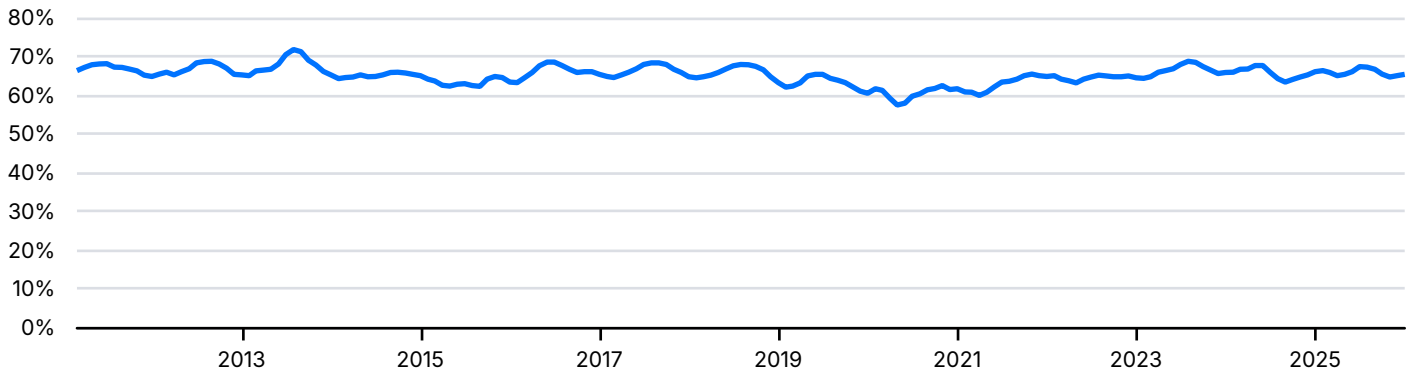


Figure 7.1: Shows the share of the working-age population that is employed. It helps indicate overall labour market health and how fully local talent is being used. (Southeast, 2011-2026)^{1,2,3,4}

The employment rate in Southeast measures the share of residents age 15+ who are employed and shows pronounced movement over the last decade. The series fell sharply in 2020, reaching a low of 57.4% in May 2020, after which it recovered to about 68.7% by August 2023. Since late 2023 the rate has softened into the mid-60s; January 2026 was 65.3%. The data highlight a deep 2020 downturn followed by multi-year recovery to a more typical pre-pandemic range.

The Southeast region's employment rate has been among the stronger regional performers in Manitoba. Its most recent value (January 2026) is 65.3%, following recovery from a low near 57.4% in May 2020. Evidence in the series shows a sharp drop in 2020 and a rebound through 2021–2023: Southeast rose to about 67.6% in mid-2024 before easing to the current level. Compared with peers, Southeast (65.3%) is higher than Winnipeg (63.4%), Southwest (61.2%) and Interlake (56.0%) at comparable recent dates. The pattern signals a region that recovered employment share faster than several peers but has experienced modest softening since 2024.

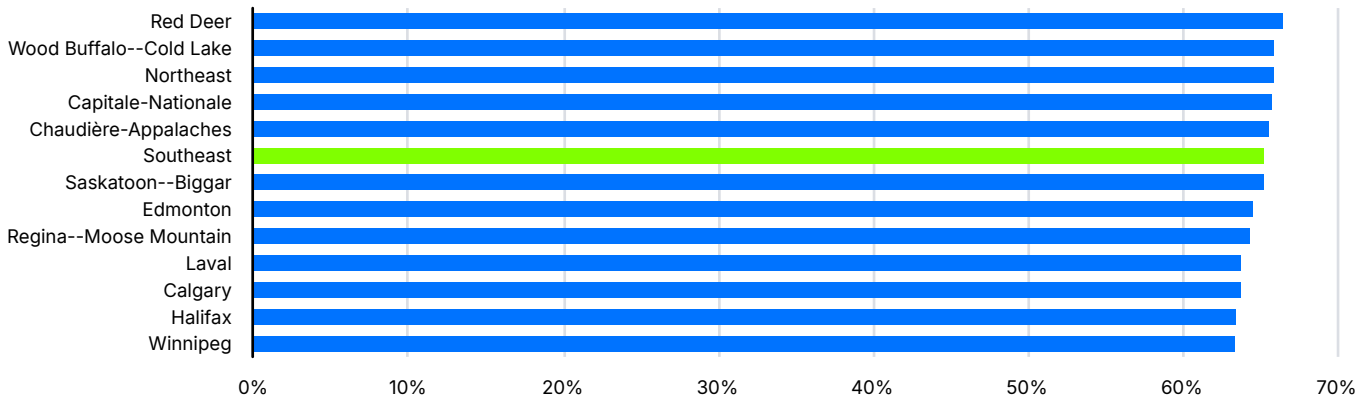


Figure 7.2: Comparison of Employment Rate with other locations (Southeast, 2026)^{1,2,3,4}

Unemployment Rate

Southeast’s unemployment rate stands at 5.1% in December 2025, marking an 18.6% rise over the previous year, indicating a notable increase in joblessness and highlighting challenges for local businesses and residents.

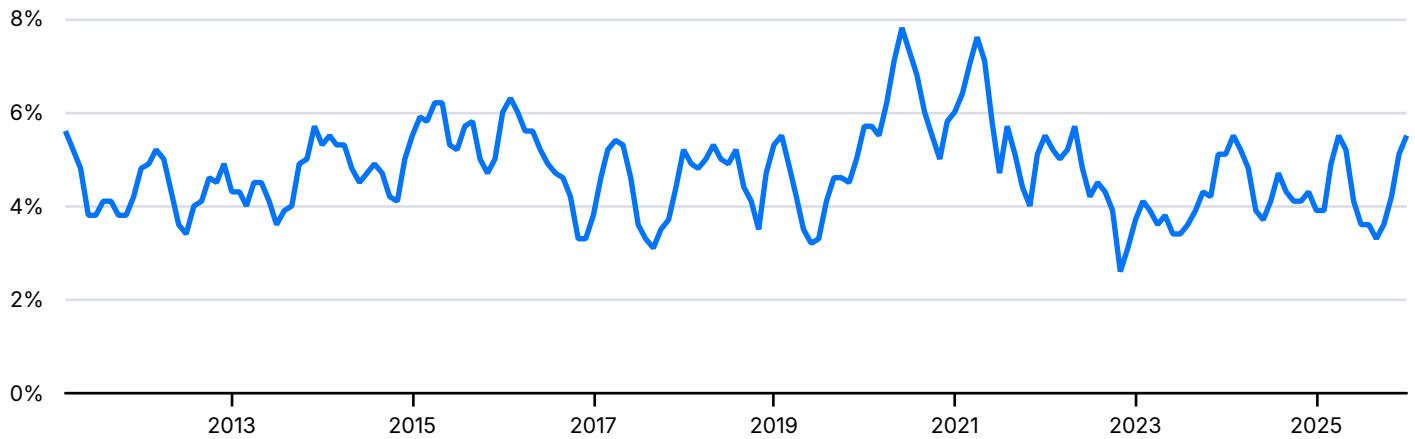


Figure 8.1: Shows the share of the labour force that is unemployed and actively seeking work. It helps indicate labour market weakness and job search pressure. (Southeast, 2011-2026)^{1,2,3,4}

The unemployment rate in Southeast measures the share of the labour force actively seeking work. Across the series, the rate moves between lows near 3.1% and highs above 7.8%. Notable points: the rate rose sharply in mid-2020 to about 7.8% before easing; it reached a low of 2.6% in November 2022 and then climbed again. The most recent January 2026 estimate is 5.5%. Year-to-year percent-change values show strong month-to-month volatility. The pattern reflects recurring short-term spikes and recoveries rather than a steady direction. Recent readings point to renewed upward pressure on unemployment compared with the 2022–23 trough.

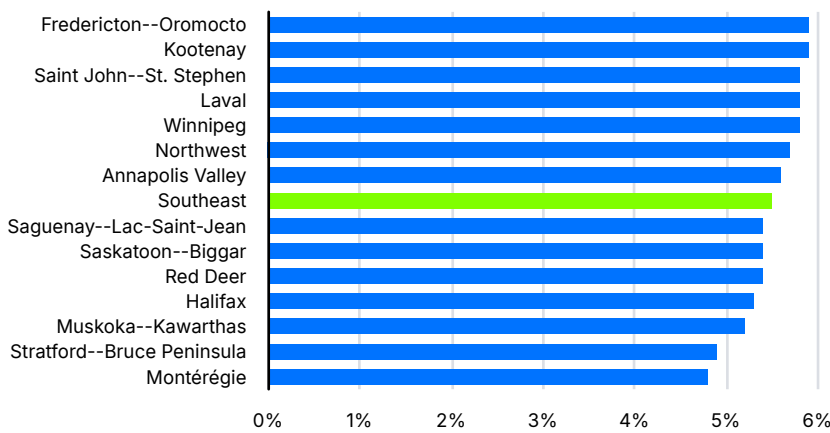


Figure 8.2: Comparison of Unemployment Rate with other locations (Southeast, 2026)^{1,2,3,4}

Southeast’s unemployment rate was 5.5% in January 2026, a recent point in a series of monthly observations going back to 2011. Recent values show the region near mid-single digits rather than very low or very high unemployment. By comparison, South Central registered 4.8% in 2021, Winnipeg was 5.8% in January 2026, and Interlake 6.1% in January 2026. These benchmarks place Southeast between lower-rate neighbouring regions and higher-rate ones. The pattern signals a labour market with modest job-search pressure relative to the province’s range of regional outcomes.

Place of Work Status

Most workers in Southeast still commute to a usual workplace, though numbers fell 7% to 39,395 in 2021; remote work grew sharply, rising 75% to 9,520 employees over the past five years.

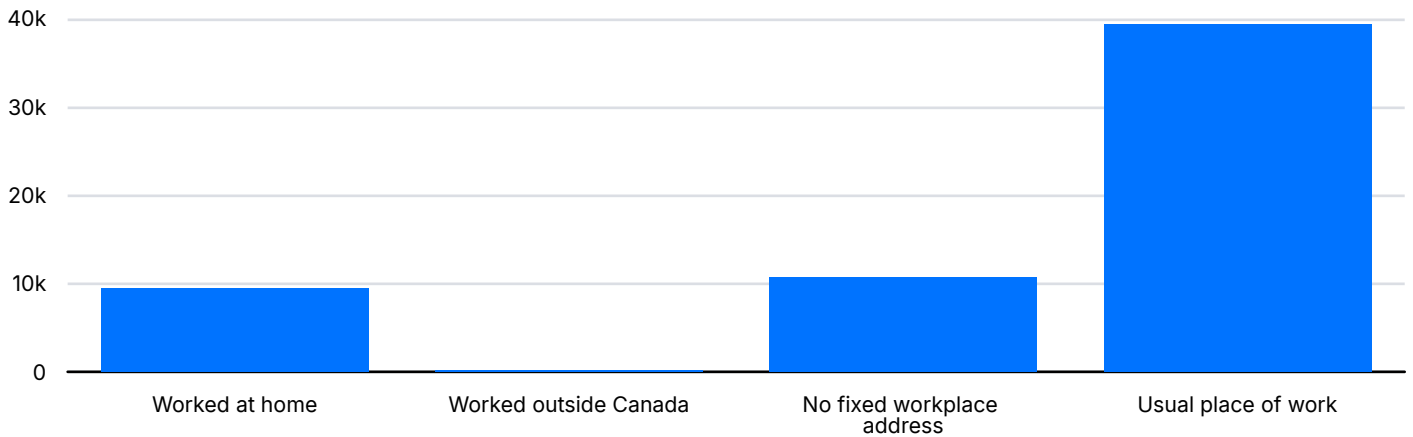
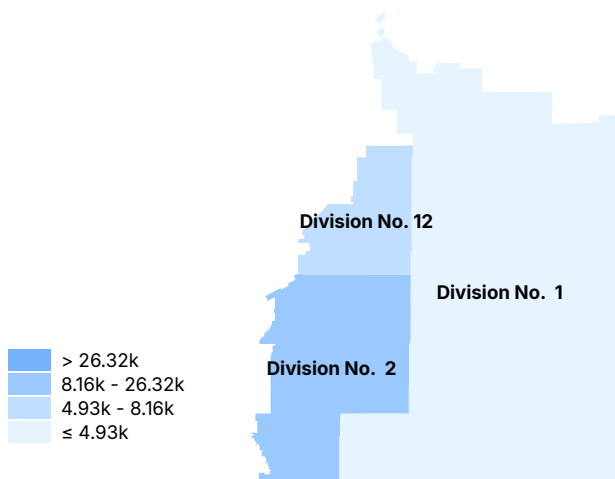


Figure 9.1: Shows whether people work from home, at a usual workplace, or at no fixed workplace. It helps indicate how work is organized across locations. (Southeast, 2021)¹

The data for Southeast (2021, employed labour force aged 15 and over) describe how people are distributed by place of work and how those counts changed over the preceding five years. The most common arrangement remains working at a usual place of work, with 39,395 people recorded in 2021. Other arrangements show notable movement: 9,520 people worked at home in 2021, a rise of 75.3% over five years; 10,710 had no fixed workplace, up 11.0%; and 205 worked outside Canada, down 14.6%. By count, the usual place of work is still the dominant category, while work-at-home experienced the largest relative increase. These figures indicate a measurable shift in work arrangements in the region between the two census points.



Place of work patterns in Southeast show a mix of work modes in 2021, with the usual workplace still the largest category but losing ground. Usual place of work: 39,395 people (-7.1% over five years). Worked at home: 9,520 people (+75.3%). No fixed workplace address: 10,710 people (+11.0%). Division No. 2 reported 6,090 working at home (+85.4%); Division No. 12 reported 2,260 (+86.0%). The data indicate rising remote and non-fixed work alongside a declining share tied to a usual workplace.

Figure 9.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Place Of Work Status - Usual place of work (Southeast)¹

Employment by Sector

Construction dominates Southeast's job market with 7,810 positions, a modest 0.75% decline this year but an 86.5% rise over five years; wholesale trade fell 16% YoY, yet grew 43% in the same period.

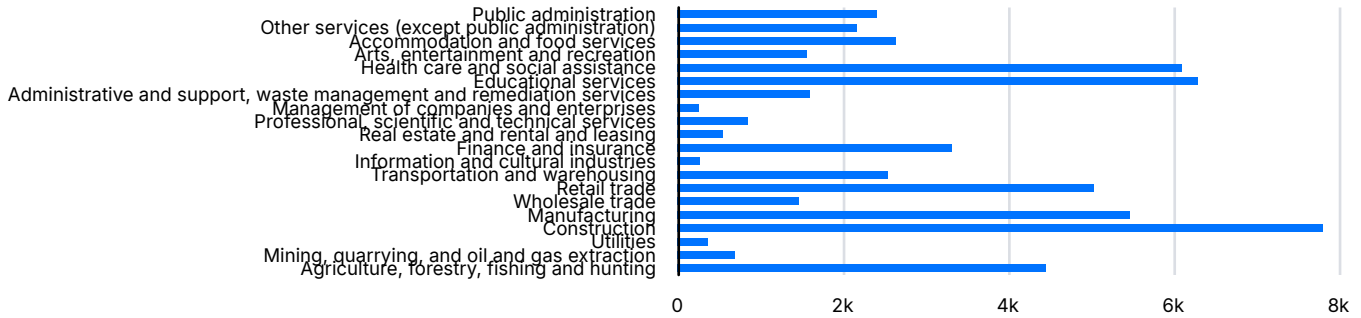


Figure 10.1: Shows how employment is distributed across industry sectors. It helps indicate which sectors account for the largest share of local jobs. (Southeast, 2025)^{5,6}

Southeast's employment is concentrated in construction and public-serving sectors, with Construction (7,810 jobs), Educational services (6,299) and Health care and social assistance (6,102) among the largest employers in 2025. Recent momentum shows increases in Health care (+11.2% 1-year), Educational services (+7.3%) and Manufacturing (+4.5%), while Wholesale trade (-16.0%) and Management of companies (-15.6%) declined year over year. Five-year change is uneven: Utilities (+354.3%) and Finance (+200.0%) grew sharply, versus modest gains in Manufacturing (+4.3%). These trends signal sectoral shifts in job gains and short-term volatility across the region.

Employment in Southeast is concentrated in a few large sectors, with construction, education and health care supplying the most jobs. Construction accounts for 7,810 jobs (1-year change -0.8%, 5-year +86.5%). Educational services employs 6,299 people; health care and social assistance has 6,102 jobs (1-year +11.2%, 5-year +44.9%). Manufacturing (5,480) and retail trade (5,045) are sizable as well. Agriculture remains important with 4,463 jobs (1-year -2.8%, 5-year +27.3%). These figures show recent gains in health and long-run growth in construction within the regional employment mix.

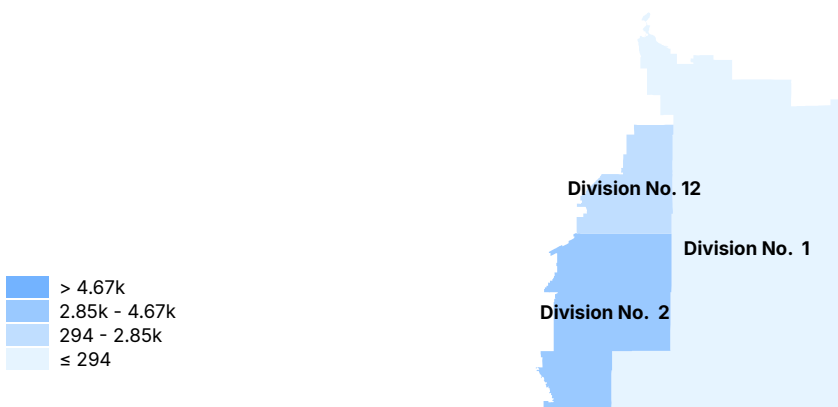


Figure 10.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Naics - Construction (Southeast)^{5,6}

Resident Labour Force

Construction is the biggest employer in Southeast, Manitoba's resident labour force with 8,855 workers, up 10.8% since 2016, while administrative and support services grew fastest, adding 26.6% to reach 1,930 workers.

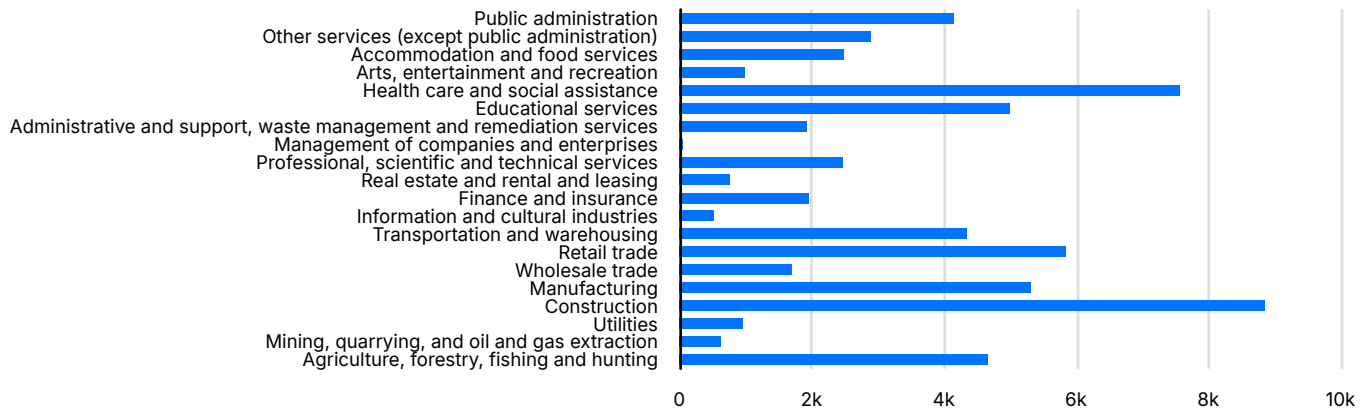


Figure 11.1: Shows the number of residents who are in the labour force. It helps indicate the size of the locally available workforce. (Southeast, 2021)¹

The resident labour force in Southeast (labour force aged 15+) is spread across many sectors in 2021, with a mix of large employers and faster-changing smaller sectors. Largest employment counts appear in Construction (8,855 people), Health care and social assistance (7,575) and Educational services (5,005). Agriculture accounts for 4,665 residents in the labour force. Five-year change highlights strong growth in Administrative and support services (+26.6%), Professional, scientific and technical services (+21.0%) and Real estate (+15.8%), while Accommodation and food services (-15.8%), Information and cultural industries (-13.1%) and Wholesale trade (-12.1%) declined. These figures show a stable core of large social and construction employers alongside pronounced five-year shifts in services and hospitality.

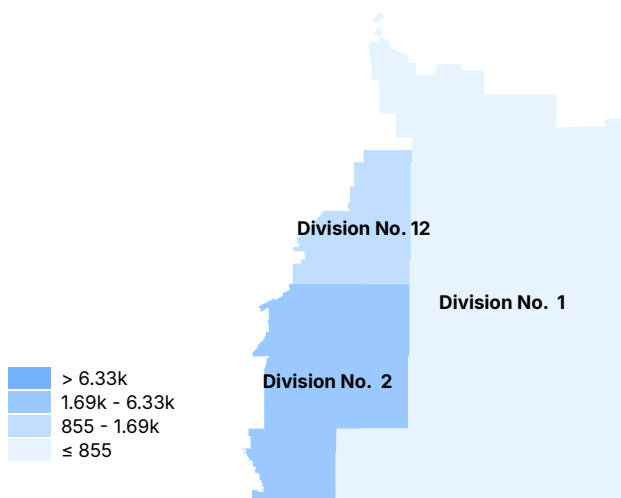


Figure 11.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Industry Sector - Construction (Southeast)¹

The resident labour force by industry in Southeast (2021, residents aged 15+) shows a mix of growth and decline across sectors. Construction employs 8,855 people (5-year change +10.8%) and professional, scientific and technical services 2,480 (+21.0%), while accommodation and food services counts 2,485 (-15.8%). Descendant divisions vary: Division No. 2 has large shares in construction and health care; Division No. 1 shows notable gains in administrative services. These patterns signal uneven sectoral momentum within the region.

Employed Residents by Major Occupation Group

The biggest employment group in Southeast is Trades, transport and equipment operators with 17,015 workers, a 21.8% increase since 2016; meanwhile Legislative and senior-management jobs fell to 675, down 91.3%.

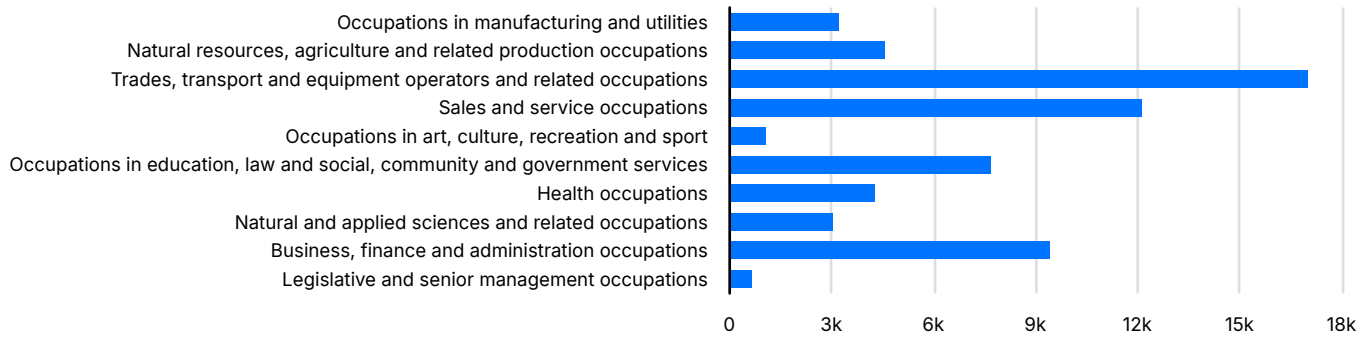


Figure 12.1: Shows the occupations held by employed residents. It helps indicate the community's skill mix and the kinds of work people do. (Southeast, 2021)¹

Employment in Southeast is concentrated in trades and transport and in sales and service, with 17,015 and 12,120 residents respectively. Other large groups include business, finance and administration (9,420) and education, law and social services (7,700). Five-year change shows strong gains in natural resources, agriculture and related production (+57.0%) and manufacturing (+23.1%). Health and business occupations rose modestly. By contrast, legislative and senior management occupations fell sharply (-91.3%). The pattern points to growing production and trades employment alongside a steep decline in senior management roles.

Southeast's employed residents are concentrated in Trades, transport and equipment operators (17,015 people) and Sales and service occupations (12,120 people), with substantial business and administration employment (9,420). Natural resources, agriculture and related production employs 4,575 people and shows the strongest five-year growth (+57.0%), while Legislative and senior management roles fell sharply (-91.3%). Division No. 2 contributes much of the region's trades and business employment. The mix points to a workforce weighted toward skilled trades, service and administrative roles.



Figure 12.2: Distribution of Largest Group: Occupation - Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations (Southeast)¹

Data Sources

1. Statistics Canada, Census Profile. Published in Dec 15, 2022.
2. Statistics Canada, Labour Force Characteristics, Table 14-10-0462-01. Published in Feb 6, 2026.
3. Statistics Canada, Labour Force Characteristics, Table 14-1004-45-01. Published in Feb 6, 2026.
4. Statistics Canada, Labour Force Characteristics, Table 14-1004-59-01. Published in Feb 6, 2026.
5. Statistics Canada, Employment by Industry, Annual, Table 14-10-0202-01. Published in Mar 27, 2025.
6. Statistics Canada, Business Register; Localintel, Employment by Industry Estimates of Census Areas. Published in Mar 13, 2026.

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