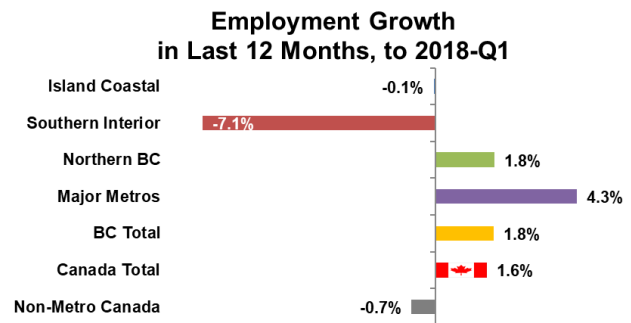
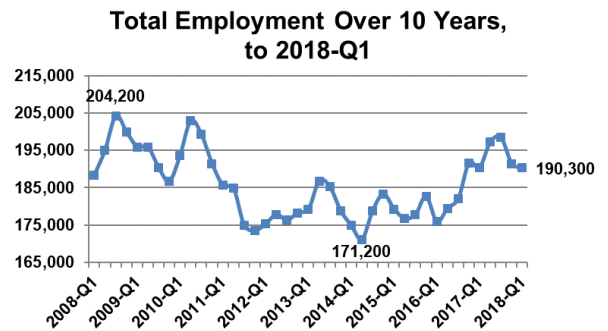


Total Employment (Updated April 2018)

Employment in the Island Coastal region averaged 190,300 in the 1st quarter of 2018, down slightly from the final quarter of 2017. It is normal for regional employment to decline in the first quarter of the year after the holiday shopping season is over and as many tourism-based industries are in their slow season.

Regional employment is virtually unchanged compared to the first quarter last year, down 0.1%. This obscures the fact that employment was 7,000-8,000 higher in the spring and summer of last year before falling back in the 4th quarter. If a similar pattern occurs in 2018, that means that significant employment increases are imminent in the next few months. In 6 of the last 9 years, there has been a notable employment surge in the 2nd quarter, ranging from 2,500 to 9,300 extra jobs.

Compared to other BC regions, the Major Metros and Northern BC have had employment growth in the last year, but the Southern Interior has suffered a significant decline of 7.1%. The chart also includes a comparison to both the national average (1.6% growth) as well as “Non-Metro Canada,” which is a better direct comparison to the Island Coastal region and declined by 0.7%. The Non-Metro Canada region is in long-term employment decline, unlike most BC rural regions that have added jobs in the last five years.



Total Employment and Growth Trends by Region, to 1st Quarter of 2018

Region	2018-Q1	Growth in Last Year	Average Growth, Last 5 Years	Average Growth, Last 10 Years
Island Coastal	190,300	-0.1%	1.2%	0.1%
Southern Interior	392,700	-7.1%	-0.2%	-0.3%
Northern BC	163,600	1.8%	0.5%	0.0%
Major Metros	1,702,900	4.3%	2.7%	1.6%
BC Total	2,449,500	1.8%	1.9%	1.0%
Canada Total	18,274,100	1.6%	1.1%	0.9%
Non-Metro Canada	4,721,600	-0.7%	-0.4%	-0.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Cansim 282-0122 and 282-0128. Quarterly figures are the average of the 3 months in the quarter.

Appendix: Geographic Areas

The four BC regions shown in this report are calculated based on Labour Force Survey releases for Economic Regions (also called Development Regions) and Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and do not exactly match the boundaries of the Island Coastal Economic Trust region or any other regional trust.

Island Coastal

Vancouver Island/Coast Economic Region LESS Victoria CMA

Note: This definition of the Island Coastal region does not include the Sunshine Coast Regional District (RD), even though it is covered by ICET programs, because it is part of the Mainland/Southwest Economic Region.

Southern Interior

Thompson-Okanagan and Kootenay Economic Regions, PLUS the non-metro portion of the Mainland/Southwest Economic Region (including the Sunshine Coast RD, the Squamish-Lillooet RD, and the eastern portion of the Fraser Valley RD, including Chilliwack)

Northern BC

Cariboo, North Coast, Nechako and Northeast Economic Regions

Major Metros

Victoria, Vancouver and Abbotsford-Mission CMAs (not shown on the map below)

Non-Metro Canada

Canada LESS All CMAs in Canada. It includes rural areas as well as smaller cities (the size of Nanaimo and smaller)

