



## Total Labour Force (Updated August 2017)

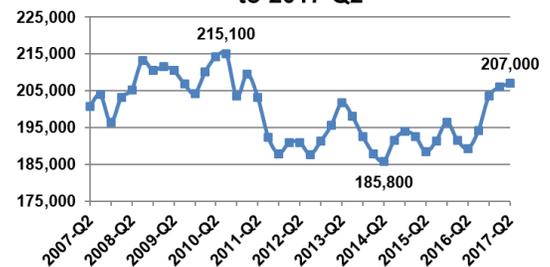
The resident labour force in the Island Coastal region edged slightly higher in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2017, growing by 1,000 people compared to the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the year.

Compared to the same period last year, the regional labour force has grown substantially, adding 17,700 people (which exactly matches the growth in regional employment over that time). This is also the largest year-over-year growth in the regional labour force since the summer of 2004.

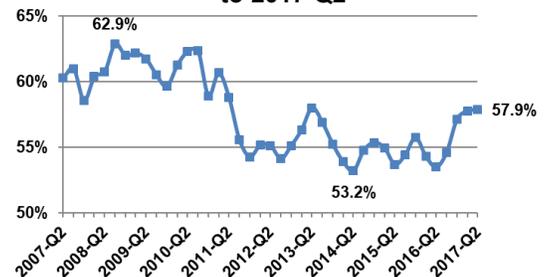
Some of the labour force growth is from people attracted to the region by the strong economy and plentiful job opportunities, including former residents who might have relocated to Alberta or northern BC when the oil and gas sector was strong.

But the strong economy is also drawing existing residents back into the labour force who might have been retired, or attending school, or otherwise not actively looking for work. The labour force participation rate increased for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive quarter, to 57.9%. This is the region's highest participation rate in four years, despite the continued aging of the population that tends to push participation rates lower (because a larger share of the population has reached retirement age).

**Total Labour Force Over 10 Years, to 2017-Q2**



**Participation Rate over 10 Years, to 2017-Q2**



### Total Labour Force and Growth Trends, by BC Region, to 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2016

Region	2017-Q2	Growth in Last Year	Average Growth, Last 5 Years	Average Growth, Last 10 Years
Island Coastal	207,000	9.4%	1.6%	0.3%
Southern Interior	453,000	4.4%	0.8%	0.5%
Northern BC	172,600	-1.3%	-0.7%	0.2%
Major Metros	1,787,400	3.1%	1.8%	1.7%
<b>BC Total</b>	<b>2,620,000</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>

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 ICET Region or any other regional trust.

### Island Coastal

**Vancouver Island/Coast Economic Region LESS Victoria CMA**

*Note: This definition of the ICET region does not include the Sunshine Coast Regional District (RD) 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)

