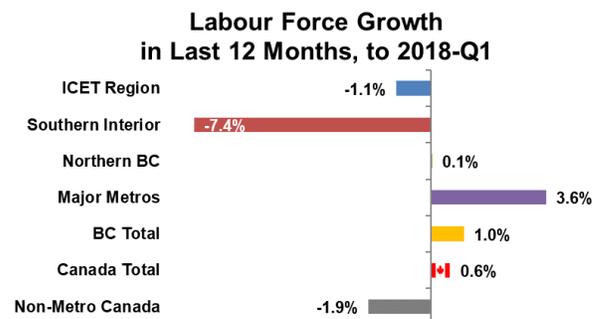
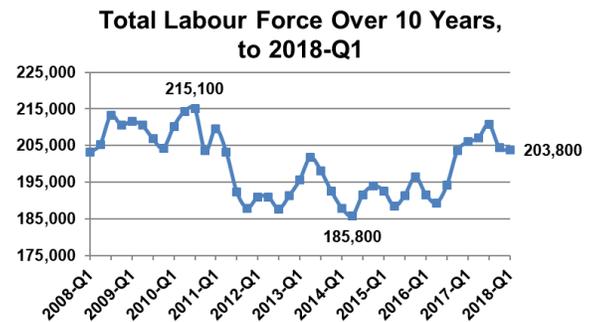


Total Labour Force (Updated April 2018)

The resident labour force in the Island Coastal region declined slightly in the 1st quarter of 2018, shrinking by 600 people. This follows a decline of 6,400 people in the 4th quarter of 2017 compared to the summer.

Changes in regional employment and the regional labour force are usually closely linked. As regional employment typically declines for the winter months in the 1st quarter of the year, many people leave the labour force altogether rather than moving into unemployment. This means they are no longer looking for a job and might have gone back to school, moved south to escape the winter weather, or simply enjoy taking some time off. As the regional population continues to age, this type of flexibility will be more common as many older workers prefer to work only part-time or for part of the year.

Compared to the first quarter of last year, the regional labour force is smaller by 1.1%. This is a slight retrenchment compared to the general trend of an expanding labour force over the last five years (average growth is 0.8% per year since 2013). Despite the recent decline, the Island Coastal region compares favourably to the Southern Interior, which has experienced a 7.4% fall in its labour force in the last year, as well as the whole of “Non-Metro Canada,” which is down by nearly 2%.



Total Labour Force and Growth Trend 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	203,800	-1.1%	0.8%	0.0%
Southern Interior	420,300	-7.4%	-0.3%	0.0%
Northern BC	175,200	0.1%	0.5%	0.0%
Major Metros	1,779,000	3.6%	2.1%	1.6%
BC Total	2,578,500	1.0%	1.5%	1.1%
Canada Total	19,483,400	0.6%	0.8%	0.9%
Non-Metro Canada	5,079,900	-1.9%	-0.6%	-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)

