

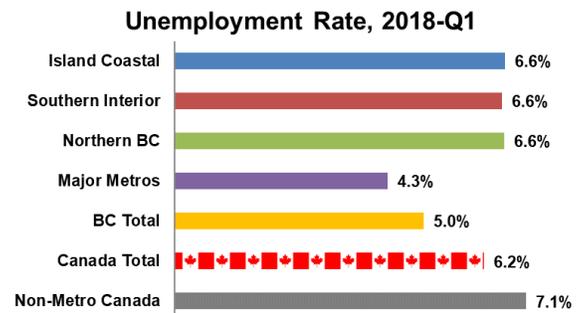
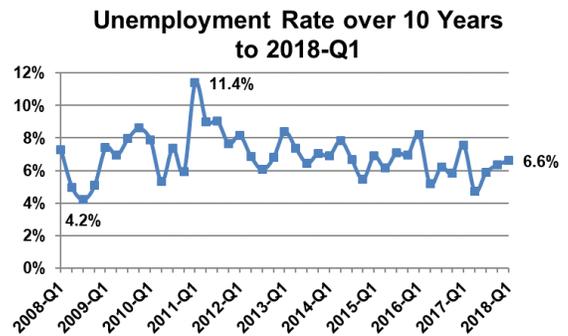
Unemployment Rate (Updated April 2018)

The unemployment rate in the Island Coastal region averaged 6.6% in the 1st quarter of 2018, a slight increase from 6.3% in the final quarter of 2017. It has increased in Q1 in all but two of the last 16 years, so this is a normal phenomenon and the 0.3% increase is the smallest in the last five years.

Looking at past years, the biggest shift in the regional unemployment rate is typically from the 1st quarter to the 2nd quarter, when a multi-point swing regularly occurs. Last year the unemployment rate dropped by 2.8% in Q2 and it dropped by 3.0% in 2016 as businesses prepare for the summer peak.

By pure coincidence, the regional unemployment rate is the same in the island Coastal, Southern Interior and Northern BC regions in Q1. The Major Metros rate is more than two percentage points lower and the overall provincial rate is 5.0%. Each of BC's rural regions has a lower unemployment rate than the national "Non-Metro Canada" rate of 7.1%.

On the positive side, unemployment rates are lower compared to one year ago in every BC region and both Canada and Non-Metro Canada.



Unemployment Rate and Trends by Region, to 1st Quarter of 2018

Region	2018-Q1	Change in Last Year	Change in Last Five Years	Change in Last 10 Years
Island Coastal	6.6%	-0.9 pp	-1.8 pp	-0.7 pp
Southern Interior	6.6%	-0.2 pp	-0.4 pp	+2.1 pp
Northern BC	6.6%	-1.6 pp	-0.0 pp	+0.0 pp
Major Metros	4.3%	-0.7 pp	-2.7 pp	+0.4 pp
BC Total	5.0%	-0.7 pp	-2.0 pp	+1.1 pp
Canada Total	6.2%	-0.9 pp	-1.3 pp	-0.1 pp
Non-Metro Canada	7.1%	-1.1 pp	-1.1 pp	-0.4 pp

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)

