



Employment Growth in the Island Coastal Region in 2016

Contrary to recent media reports that all BC employment growth is occurring in Vancouver and Victoria, the Island Coastal region had solid employment growth of 1.7% in 2016 compared to 2015.¹

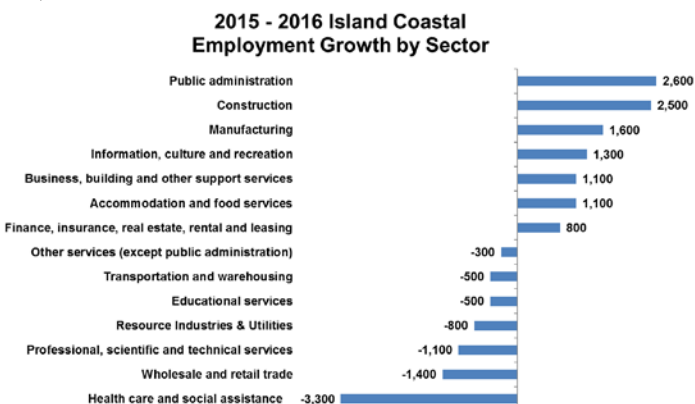
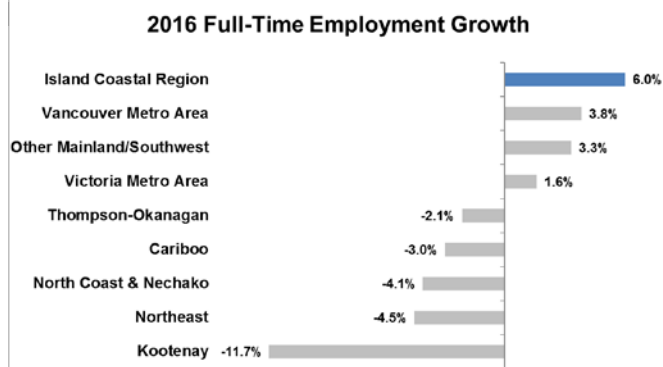
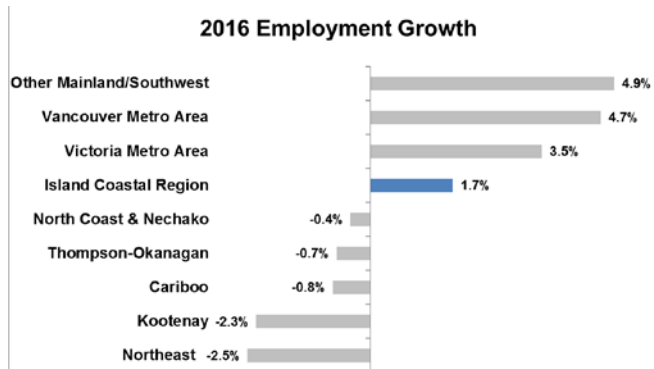
The Island Coastal Region includes all of Vancouver Island outside of the Victoria metropolitan area, as well as coastal areas from Powell River north to the Central Coast. It is the only rural region in BC to show employment growth in the last year.

Even better news for regional residents is growth in full-time employment, which was 6.0% in the last year, easily the best result in BC. Full-time jobs are an indicator of higher-quality employment, associated with higher incomes and better non-wage benefits.

In terms of actual numbers, the Island Coastal region had a net increase of 3,000 jobs from 2015 to 2016, plus an additional net conversion of 4,800 part-time jobs into full-time jobs.

The Labour Force Survey provides no further insight into full-time vs. part-time employment, but data is available on employment by industry sector. Job growth in the last year is concentrated in government, construction (and related sectors like building support services and finance/insurance/real estate), manufacturing, the tourism-related accommodation and food services sector, and information, culture and recreation.

The Labour Force Survey is a monthly telephone survey so there is a certain amount of random variation and sampling error in the results and more detailed results are best viewed over a multi-year period. For instance, health care is the largest job-loser with a decline of 3,300 jobs, but this is at least partly a correction from a random spike in employment in this sector in 2015.



¹ Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey, Annual Averages for Regions and Metro Areas, Tables 282-0123 and 282-0129