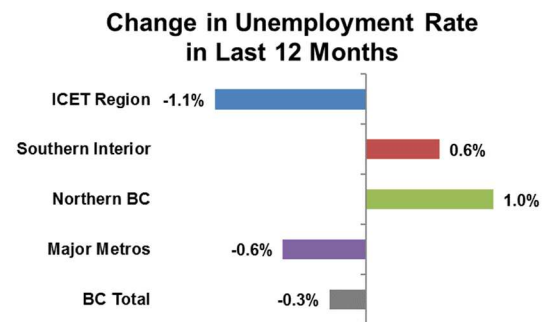
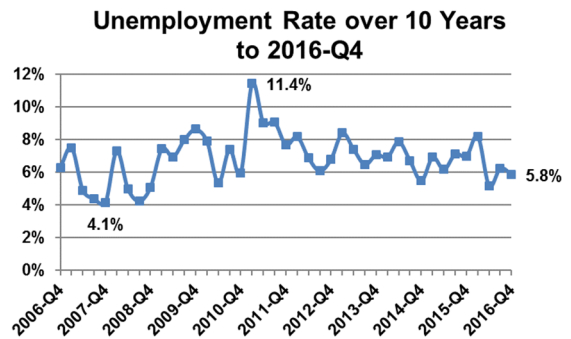


## Unemployment Rate (Updated February 2017)

As noted in other ICET Economic Indicators, the Island Coastal region experienced a significant increase in employment (+9,600) and labour force (+9,400) in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2016. This pushes the regional unemployment rate down slightly from 6.2% to 5.8%.

Since peaking at 11.4% in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2011, the regional unemployment rate has been steadily trending down. The average rate for all of 2016 was 6.4%, the lowest rate since 2008.

Looking back one year to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2015, the regional unemployment rate was 7.0%. The decline of more than 1 percentage point over the last year is the best performance of any region in BC, at a time when the Southern Interior and Northern BC unemployment rates were both increasing.



### Unemployment Rate and Changes Over Time, by BC Region, to 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2016

Region	2016-Q4	One Year Trend		Five-Year Trend		Ten-Year Trend	
		2015-Q4	Change	2011-Q4	Change	2006-Q4	Change
Island Coastal	5.8%	7.0%	-1.1%	7.7%	-1.8%	6.3%	-0.4%
Southern Interior	7.7%	7.2%	0.6%	5.7%	2.1%	5.0%	2.7%
Northern BC	8.2%	7.2%	1.0%	6.9%	1.3%	5.3%	2.9%
Major Metros	4.9%	5.5%	-0.6%	6.6%	-1.7%	3.9%	1.0%
<b>BC Total</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>1.3%</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.

### ICET Region

**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)

