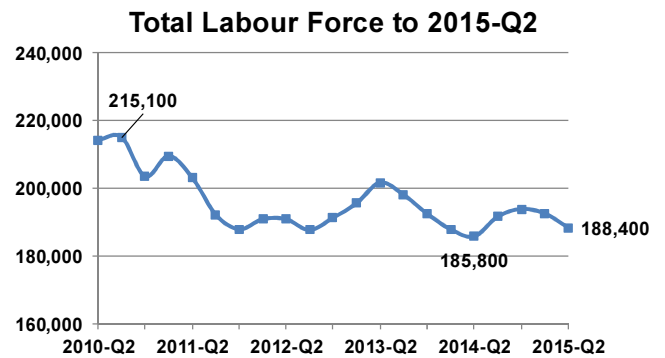


Total Labour Force (Updated September 2015)

The resident labour force in the ICET region averaged 188,400 people in the 2nd quarter of 2015, down slightly from the 1st quarter but a modest increase of 2,600 people compared to the 2nd quarter of 2014.

The regional labour force is considerably smaller than five years ago, down by about 26,000 potential workers since the recent peak in the summer of 2010. Some of this drop is due to an aging population that is transitioning out of the workforce and some due to the attraction of stronger economies elsewhere (as demonstrated by slow population growth in recent years). Most of the drop in the labour force occurred through 2011 and early 2012 and since then seems to have stabilized in the range of 185,000 to 195,000. One fact that demonstrates this new normal is the most recent quarter is the 8th consecutive with a regional labour force under 200,000 people – a streak that is unmatched since the 2nd quarter of 2005, after which the regional labour force grew beyond 200,000 people for the first time.



Compared to the rest of BC, both the Southern Interior and Northern BC have similarly had a declining labour force over the last five years and those two regions are also down over the last year. Provincial labour force growth has been occurring also exclusively in the major metropolitan areas of Vancouver, Victoria and the Fraser Valley.

Note: The reader is cautioned that Statistics Canada made significant revisions to 2014 labour force figures in January of this year, so figures in this report may not match previous ICET reports.

Total Labour Force by BC Region, 2010-Q1 to 2015-Q2

Region	Total Labour Force						Change in Last Year	Change in Last 5 Years
	2010-Q2	2011-Q2	2012-Q2	2013-Q2	2014-Q2	2015-Q2		
ICET Region	214,300	203,200	190,900	201,700	185,800	188,400	2,600	-25,900
Southern Interior	438,300	429,500	434,500	431,100	429,700	424,800	-4,900	-13,500
Northern BC	173,100	173,600	179,200	169,500	172,800	172,500	-300	-600
Major Metros	1,579,700	1,607,400	1,638,100	1,630,500	1,647,000	1,656,600	9,600	76,900
BC Total	2,405,300	2,413,700	2,442,600	2,433,000	2,435,200	2,442,300	7,100	37,000

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)

