

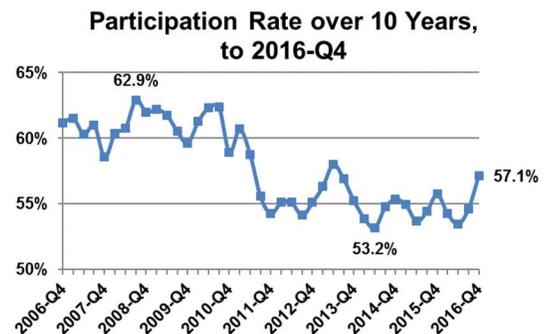
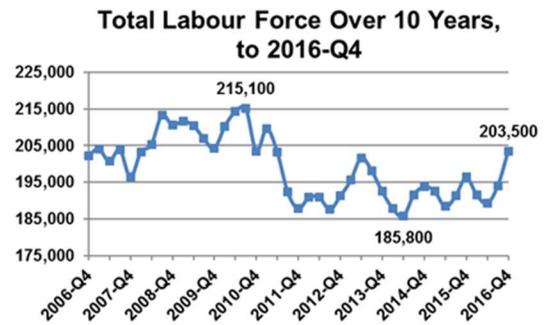
Total Labour Force (Updated February 2017)

The resident labour force in the Island Coastal region increased by 9,400 in the 4th quarter of 2016, surpassing 200,000 in total for the first time in five and a half years.

The increase of 9,400 in the region's available workers is a big change, the region's largest since 2005. But those workers were entering the labour force for a reason, and judging by the increase of 9,600 in regional employment, that reason was job openings.

The interplay between jobs and labour force occurs in multiple ways. Strong employment prospects attract new residents (or prompt former residents to return). People who were retired or attending school, or had given up finding a job, are drawn back to work. Some new workers create jobs through entrepreneurship, by filling key vacancies, or by allowing companies to expand. And there is always the possibility that part of the recent increase is a statistical blip that will vanish going forward.

The lower chart to the right shows the regional participation rate (the share of the 15+ population that is employed or looking for work) over the last 10 years. It generally follows changes in the size of the labour force, but is trending down over time as the population ages. Helping to sustain the regional participation rate at a reasonable level is an important goal for regional economic development.



Total Labour Force and Growth Trends, by BC Region, to 4th Quarter of 2016

Region	2016-Q4	One Year Trend		Five-Year Trend		Ten-Year Trend	
		2015-Q4	Annual Growth	2011-Q4	Annual Growth	2006-Q4	Annual Growth
Island Coastal	203,500	196,400	3.6%	187,900	1.6%	202,300	0.1%
Southern Interior	446,600	423,700	5.4%	432,100	0.7%	413,600	0.8%
Northern BC	176,100	171,600	2.6%	174,900	0.1%	168,100	0.5%
Major Metros	1,722,000	1,702,300	1.2%	1,605,900	1.4%	1,477,900	1.5%
BC Total	2,558,100	2,493,900	2.6%	2,400,800	1.3%	2,316,400	1.0%

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.

Island Coastal

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)

