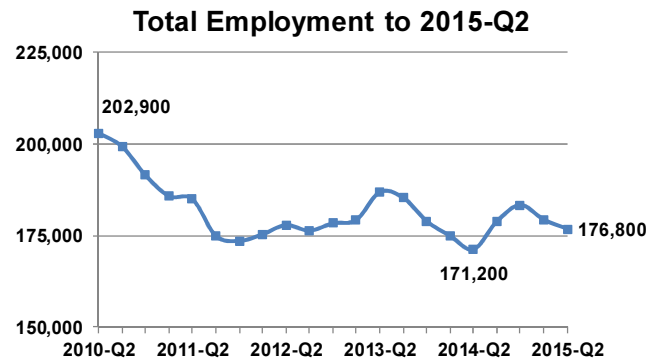


Total Employment (Updated September 2015)

Total employment in the ICET region declined through the first half of 2015, falling from a recent high of 183,300 employed residents in the 4th quarter of 2014 to 176,800 employed in the 2nd quarter of 2015.

Despite the recent drop, regional employment remains higher than the 2nd quarter of last year, by 5,600 jobs. In fact, the ICET region has the largest employment increase in the province over the last calendar year.

Taking a longer view, the chart to the right shows a trend line over the last 5 years. Regional employment is significantly lower than in the 2nd quarter of 2010, with most of the decline occurring by the end of 2011, followed by smaller changes up and down from 2012 to the present.



The five-year view is also less favourable to the ICET region compared to other parts of BC. While employment in the Island/Coast region has declined by 26,000 jobs, both the Southern Interior and Northern BC registered small gains. Nearly all employment growth in the province in the last five years has been in the Major Metros (Vancouver, Victoria and Fraser Valley).

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

Total Employment by BC Region, 2010-Q2 to 2015-Q2

Region	Total Employment						Change in Last Year	Change in Last 5 Years
	2010-Q2	2011-Q2	2012-Q2	2013-Q2	2014-Q2	2015-Q2		
ICET Region	202,900	184,900	177,800	186,800	171,200	176,800	5,600	-26,100
Southern Interior	399,100	398,000	402,500	402,400	403,500	400,500	-3,000	1,400
Northern BC	158,100	161,200	164,600	159,800	160,000	159,800	-200	1,700
Major Metros	1,460,500	1,490,000	1,531,800	1,527,400	1,552,600	1,557,400	4,800	96,900
BC Total	2,220,500	2,234,000	2,276,800	2,276,400	2,287,400	2,294,500	7,100	74,000

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Cansim 282-0122 and 282-0128. Quarterly figures are the average of the 3 months in the quarter.

With the usual caution about small sample sizes affecting the reliability of the data, the sectors showing the most notable recent change include:

- Retail and wholesale trend continued its decline, dropping 3,800 jobs in the last six months and 14,200 over the last five years. The decline has occurred along with the overall drop in regional employment as household incomes have been impacted, but may be accelerated due to issues such as labour availability, a shift to online shopping, more out-of-region shopping trips, or other unknown factors. The downward trend is also occurring at a slower rate at the provincial level, where retail and wholesale trade employment has dropped by 6%, or more than 21,000 jobs, over the last 5 years.
- Construction employment in the region is up by 3,800 jobs in the last year, but is still 6,700 jobs lower than five years ago. Finance, insurance and real estate services are closely related to construction and have shown a similar pattern – employment up by 800 in the last year but down by 3,200 compared to 5 years ago.
- Transportation and warehousing employment has increased substantially (+43%) over the past year
- Regional employment growth has been strong in health care and social assistance in the last year, adding 4,700 jobs. But employment remains 1,500 below its level of five years ago.
- The tourism-related accommodation and food services sector lost employment through the first half of this year, but is still 1,300 jobs ahead of the same quarter last year.
- The available data does not show individual resource sectors separately, but the combined resource industries and utilities have lost about 3,000 jobs in the last year. Manufacturing is similarly down by 2,300 jobs. The data is based on where people live, so some portion of the regional job loss is likely related to Island/Coast residents who have been affected by job losses in the oil and gas sector. (Resource industry employment in Alberta declined by more than 26,000 from the 3rd quarter of 2014 to the 2nd quarter of 2015).

The table below shows employment changes in the ICET region and BC over the last calendar year.

Change in Employment by Sector in Last 12 Months, 2014-Q2 to 2015-Q2

Sector	ICET Region		BC	
	Employment Change	Percentage Change	Employment Change	Percentage Change
Total employed, all industries	5,600	3%	7,100	0%
Goods-producing sector	-1,600	-4%	1,200	0%
Resource Industries & Utilities	-3,100	-22%	-6,600	-7%
Construction	3,800	24%	-1,600	-1%
Manufacturing	-2,300	-18%	9,500	6%
Services-producing sector	7,300	6%	5,900	0%
Trade	-1,600	-6%	-11,100	-3%
Transportation and warehousing	2,600	43%	13,700	11%
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	800	11%	-5,100	-4%
Professional, scientific and technical services	-100	-1%	5,600	3%
Business, building and other support services	1,500	35%	-900	-1%
Educational services	-700	-5%	-10,600	-6%
Health care and social assistance	4,700	18%	9,800	4%
Information, culture and recreation	-900	-13%	7,000	7%
Accommodation and food services	1,300	12%	-2,800	-2%
Other services	-1,100	-12%	3,100	3%
Public administration	1,000	18%	-2,700	-3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Cansim 282-0124 and 282-0130. 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)

