



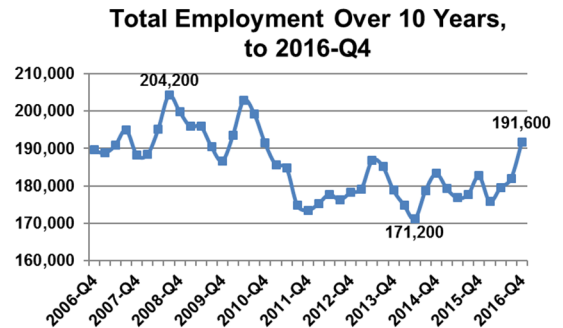
Total Employment (Updated February 2017)

A recent special report from ICET highlighted strong employment growth of 1.7% in the Island Coastal region in 2016, contrary to media reports that all growth occurred in Vancouver and Victoria.

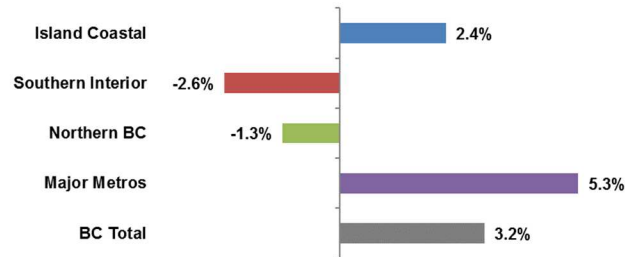
This report uses slightly different data, focusing only on the 4th quarter of 2016. Regional employment averaged 191,600 from October to December, an increase of 2.4% over the 4th quarter of 2015. This is easily the best performance among rural areas of BC - both the Southern Interior and Northern BC had fewer employed residents compared to one year earlier.

Over the longer term, employment in the Island Coastal region remains below its all-time peak of 204,000 from the summer of 2008, just before the global financial crisis. But employment is clearly trending up over the last two years since the low of 171,000 jobs in the spring of 2014.

Regional employment recovered quickly from the 2008-09 recession, but then fell sharply from the summer of 2010 through 2011, losing about 26,000 jobs over 18 months. But in the five years since the end of 2011, the region has averaged 2.0% employment growth per year, the highest rate in BC among all regions, including the Major Metros (see table below).



Employment Growth in Last 12 Months



Total Employment 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	191,600	182,700	4.9%	173,500	2.0%	189,600	0.1%
Southern Interior	412,100	393,300	4.8%	407,600	0.2%	392,900	0.5%
Northern BC	161,700	159,200	1.6%	162,800	-0.1%	159,200	0.2%
Major Metros	1,637,300	1,608,000	1.8%	1,500,000	1.8%	1,420,100	1.4%
BC Total	2,410,600	2,343,300	2.9%	2,243,800	1.4%	2,212,500	0.9%

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 Island Coastal Economic Trust 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)

