

NEWS RELEASE

Median employment income in New Brunswick cities more than \$12,000 lower than in Portland, Maine

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For Immediate Release

HALIFAX—Median employment income in New Brunswick’s three major urban areas is significantly less than incomes in urban areas in neighbouring Maine, and that gap widened in recent years, finds a new study published by the Fraser Institute.

“Our study uses median employment income, an important measure of labour market and economic health, to help compare economic performance in Atlantic Canadian metro areas to nearby ones in New England. One key result is a large prosperity gap between New Brunswick and Maine which grew throughout the 2010s,” said Ben Eisen, a Fraser Institute senior fellow and co-author of *Comparing Median Employment Incomes in Atlantic Canada and New England Metropolitan Areas*.

The study measures median employment income in 20 metropolitan areas in Atlantic Canada and New England from 2010-2019.

In 2019, median employment income in Moncton (\$35,711), Saint John (\$36,132) and Fredericton (\$37,184) were the three lowest employment incomes among the 20 jurisdictions, trailing behind comparable cities in Maine: Bangor (\$39,712), Lewiston (\$46,096), and Portland (49,876).

The study also measures compound annual growth in median employment earnings from 2010 to 2019. While Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John experienced growth of between 0.2 and 0.3 per cent, the three urban areas in Maine saw median employment incomes grow in a range between 1.3 and 2.3 per cent over the same period.

“Not only does a significant prosperity gap exist between urban areas in New Brunswick and their counterparts in neighbouring Maine, but the data presented here shows that gap has widened in recent years,” Eisen said.

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