

NEWS RELEASE

Provinces outperformed by most U.S. states in job growth, employment rates

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For immediate release

TORONTO—Compared to most U.S. states, all 10 Canadian provinces fare poorly on key labour indicators including private-sector job growth and employment rates, finds a new study released today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think-tank.

“Poor-performing labour markets mean fewer opportunities and lower living standards for workers, and less prosperity in the economy overall,” said Ben Eisen, Fraser Institute senior fellow.

The study, *Measuring Labour Markets in Canada and the United States, 2018*, measures the labour market performance of all 10 Canadian provinces and 50 U.S. states from 2015 to 2017 using eight indicators including job-creation, unemployment and worker productivity (the average value of goods and services each worker produced with his or her labour).

Overall, all 10 Canadian provinces rank in the bottom half of the 60 jurisdictions with British Columbia (35th) and Saskatchewan (41st) the highest ranked Canadian provinces. North Dakota ranked first overall in the study.

Four of the five lowest ranked jurisdictions are Canadian: Prince Edward Island (56th), New Brunswick (57th), Nova Scotia (59th) and Newfoundland and Labrador (last at 60th).

Crucially, Canadian provinces performed very poorly on private-sector employment rates—the percentage of the working population employed by the private sector, as opposed to government employment. In fact, Canadian provinces comprise 10 of the bottom 12 spots in the ranking.

“Relatively low private-sector employment rates, coupled with overall weak labour markets, spell trouble for provincial economies,” Eisen said.

| Province | Rank (out of 60) | Score (out of 100) |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| British Columbia | 35 | 53.6 |
| Saskatchewan | 41 | 52.3 |
| Manitoba | 45 | 51.1 |
| Alberta | 48 | 48.1 |
| Quebec | 50 | 45.3 |
| Ontario | 52 | 44.5 |
| P.E.I. | 56 | 36.6 |
| New Brunswick | 57 | 35.4 |
| Nova Scotia | 59 | 31.3 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 60 | 16.6 |

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Ben Eisen, Senior Fellow
Fraser Institute

To arrange media interviews or for more information, please contact:
Bryn Weese, Media Relations Specialist, Fraser Institute
(604) 688-0221 ext. 589
bryn.weese@fraserinstitute.org

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