

NEWS RELEASE

Provincial labour markets in Canada performing poorly compared to U.S.; trailing in job growth

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For immediate release

VANCOUVER—Provincial labour markets are being outperformed by their American counterparts, and are trailing far behind the U.S. in terms of job creation, finds a new study released today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think-tank.

“With Labour Day just around the corner, it’s a good time to take stock of how well our labour markets are performing, and the news isn’t good,” said Charles Lammam, director of fiscal studies at the Fraser Institute and co-author of *Measuring Labour Markets in Canada and the United States, 2017*.

The study measures the labour market performance for all 10 Canadian provinces and 50 U.S. states from 2014 to 2016 using several indicators including job-creation, unemployment and worker productivity (the average value of goods and services each worker produced with his or her labour). Each jurisdiction receives a score out of 100 based on their performance on each indicator.

Overall, Canadian labour markets performed poorly. In particular, Canada experienced less than half the average employment growth of the U.S. (0.7 per cent versus 1.6) over the three year period.

All but two Canadian provinces ranked in the bottom half of the 60 jurisdictions on the index, including the traditional economic engines of Canada: Alberta (ranked 31st) and Ontario (ranked 44th).

Saskatchewan (15th) and British Columbia (17th) have the highest performing Canadian labour markets.

Crucially, four of the five lowest ranked jurisdictions are Canadian provinces: Prince Edward Island (56), New Brunswick (57), Nova Scotia (58) and Newfoundland and Labrador (59), which is tied for last place with West Virginia.

Delaware ranked first overall in the index, followed by Oregon, North Dakota, Utah, Idaho and Hawaii.

“Robust labour markets create opportunities and prosperity for workers, and given the lacklustre performance of labour markets in many provinces, Canadian workers should be concerned,” Lammam said.

Province	Score (out of 100)	Rank (out of 60 provinces and states)
Saskatchewan	59.8	15
British Columbia	58.9	17
Alberta	52.9	31
Manitoba	49.9	39
Ontario	47.7	44
Quebec	41.3	53
P.E.I.	32.5	56
New Brunswick	31.4	57
Nova Scotia	31.3	58
Newfoundland & Labrador	30.3	59

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