



NEWS RELEASE

Government-sector job growth outpaced private-sector growth in all 10 provinces since the onset of COVID

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For immediate release

VANCOUVER—The rate of job growth in the government sector nationwide was three times as fast as the private sector from February 2020 to June 2023, according to a new study released today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think-tank.

“Across Canada, job growth in the government sector has outpaced growth in the private sector since the onset of COVID, and in many provinces, the contrast has been significant,” said Ben Eisen, senior fellow at the Fraser Institute and co-author of *Public and Private Sector Job Growth in the Provinces during the COVID-19 Era*.

The study finds that from February 2020 to June 2023, in all ten provinces, the rate of job growth was faster in the government sector (including federal, provincial and municipal) than in the private sector (including the self-employed).

Nationally, the number of government-sector jobs increased 11.8 per cent over that time period, while the number of private sector jobs increased only 3.3 per cent.

Of the four largest provinces, British Columbia had the fastest rate of government sector job growth at 22.6 per cent and the slowest rate of private sector job growth (0.3 per cent), meanwhile Alberta had the lowest rate of government sector job growth (8.9 per cent) and the fastest rate of private sector job growth (6.2 per cent) during this same period.

In fact, Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Saskatchewan experienced negative private-sector job growth.

“When governments talk about the employment recovery following COVID-19, it is important to understand where job growth has actually occurred, in the government sector or the private sector,” Eisen said.

“Across Canada, job growth in the government sector has outpaced job growth in the private sector.”

Job creation by sector, percentage change, February 2020 to June 2023

Province	Government sector	Private sector	Province	Government sector	Private Sector
B.C.	22.6	0.3	Quebec	7.6	2.0
Alberta	8.9	6.2	New Brunswick	18.4	-0.6
Saskatchewan	13.5	-1.5	Nova Scotia	6.8	5.4
Manitoba	8.1	2.8	P.E.I.	27.6	-0.7
Ontario	11.7	4.7	Newfoundland and Labrador	17.8	-0.9

MEDIA CONTACT:
Ben Eisen, Senior Fellow
Fraser Institute

To arrange media interviews or for more information, please contact:
Drue MacPherson, 604-688-0221 ext. 721, drue.macpherson@fraserinstitute.org

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