



NEWS RELEASE

Majority of Atlantic Canada experienced negative private sector job growth since the onset of COVID

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For immediate release

HALIFAX—Most of Atlantic Canada experienced negative private sector job growth from February 2020 to June 2023, finds a new study released today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think-tank.

“The government sector, not the private sector, has been driving job growth across Atlantic Canada since the onset of COVID,” 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 than in the private sector (including the self-employed).

Three of the Atlantic provinces experienced negative private sector job growth over that time period: New Brunswick (-0.6 per cent), Prince Edward Island (-0.7 per cent), and Newfoundland and Labrador (-0.9 per cent).

At the same time, these jurisdictions saw significant job growth in the government sector. Prince Edward Island experienced the fastest government sector job growth nationwide at 27.6 per cent, followed by New Brunswick at 18.4 per cent (3rd across Canada), and Newfoundland and Labrador at 17.8 per cent (4th highest in Canada).

“When governments talk about the employment recovery following COVID-19, it is important to understand where new jobs have been created, in the government sector or the private sector,” Eisen said.

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

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