



NEWS RELEASE

Government-sector jobs in Ontario grew at more than twice the rate of private-sector jobs since the onset of COVID

Sept. 1, 2023
For immediate release

TORONTO—Government-sector jobs in Ontario (including federal, provincial and municipal employment) grew at more than twice the rate than jobs in 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.

“The government sector has been a major driver of job growth in Ontario since the onset of COVID. The rate of job creation in the private sector has been sluggish by comparison,” 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).

In Ontario, government-sector job growth was 11.7 per cent, compared to an increase of 4.7 per cent in private-sector jobs.

Across Canada, British Columbia had the second-highest growth rate of government-sector jobs after Prince Edward Island. Saskatchewan had the lowest rate of private-sector job growth nationwide with a decline of 1.5 per cent.

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

“In Ontario’s case, a disproportionate share of the new jobs in the province have been government jobs, and not jobs created in a thriving 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

Follow the Fraser Institute on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)



The Fraser Institute is an independent Canadian public policy research and educational organization with offices in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal and ties to a global network of think-tanks in 87 countries. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for Canadians, their families and future generations by studying, measuring and broadly communicating the effects of government policies, entrepreneurship and choice on their well-being. To protect the Institute's independence, it does not accept grants from governments or contracts for research. Visit www.fraserinstitute.org