

NEWS RELEASE

Median workers in New England made \$15,086 more than median workers in Atlantic Canada

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For Immediate Release

HALIFAX—Despite many similarities between the two regions, workers in all six New England states earn significantly more than workers in the Atlantic provinces, finds a new study released today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think-tank

“Atlantic Canadians may be surprised to learn that people who live and work mere hours away make considerably more money than we do,” said Alex Whalen, senior economist at the Fraser Institute and co-author of *Comparing the Economies of Atlantic Canada and New England*.

For example, in 2019 (the last pre-pandemic year), the median employment earnings (which excludes government transfers but includes wages, salaries, self-employment income, etc.) in New England was \$44,236 compared to \$29,150 in Atlantic Canada—a difference of \$15,086 (all figures in Canadian dollars).

More specifically, in Massachusetts, the highest ranked state, the median earnings were \$48,551 compared to \$25,881 in Prince Edward Island, the lowest ranked province—a difference of \$22,670.

And the median earnings in Maine (\$41,341), New Hampshire (\$44,890) and Vermont (\$40,574) were much higher than in Nova Scotia (\$28,733), New Brunswick (\$29,232) and Newfoundland and Labrador (\$32,753)

“If residents in Atlantic Canada want to see their paycheques grow, they should push policymakers to learn lessons from New England where workers earn more,” Whalen said.

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