



NEWS RELEASE

Employment in Ontario's government sector more than triple the growth rate of the private sector 2019-2023: 14.6% vs. 4.8%

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For Immediate Release

TORONTO—Ontario's net job creation from 2019-23 has been driven by growth in government employment rather than private sector growth, at 14.6 per cent and 4.8 per cent over the period, respectively, finds a new study published today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think-tank.

“Across the country, Canada's net job creation in recent years has been disproportionately driven by growth in government employment rather than growth in the private sector, and as of 2019, government employment as a share of total employment in the country is at its highest point since the mid-1990s,” said Ben Eisen, Fraser Institute senior fellow and co-author of *Economic Recovery in Canada before and after COVID: Job Growth in the Government and Private Sectors*.

The study finds that historically, no other recent era of recession and recovery in Canada have been so dominated by government sector job growth compared to private sector job growth.

During the recession and recovery periods related to the COVID-19 recession (2019-2023), government employment across the country, including federal, provincial and municipal increased by 13.0 per cent compared to just 3.6 per cent in the private sector (including self-employment.)

The study also breaks down the rate of net job creation in the government and private sectors in each province. In Ontario, the rate of employment growth in the government sector was triple what it was in the private sector, at 14.6 per cent to 4.8 per cent, respectively.

“In eight of ten provinces, job growth in recent years has been largely driven by increased employment in the government sector. Ontario is a good example of this trend, as the rate of job growth in the private sector has significantly lagged the government sector.”

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