

NEWS RELEASE

New Brunswick's private sector underperforms the rest of the country—ranks among the lowest of all Canadian provinces in private sector investment

June 30, 2022
For immediate release

SAINT JOHN—New Brunswick ranks low among all Canadian provinces in per person private sector investment—a key driver of higher living standards and increased prosperity—finds a new study published by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think-tank.

“For most of recent history, there has been a prosperity gap between Atlantic Canada and the rest of Canada, and part of closing this gap is for the region to have a healthy private sector,” said Alex Whalen, policy analyst at the Fraser Institute and co-author of *The State of Markets in Atlantic Canada*.

The study—which measures private markets in Atlantic Canada—finds that private markets in the Maritimes generally underperformed those in the rest of Canada.

Critically, New Brunswick ranked 9th on small business start-ups, a key measure of entrepreneurship.

Government spending (including federal, provincial and local) as a share of the overall economy in New Brunswick was in the top three highest spending provinces at 57.4 per cent in 2019 (the most recent year of available data prior to the COVID-19 pandemic), after Nova Scotia (60.2 per cent) and PEI (58.5 per cent).

New Brunswick's private sector employment relative to total employment ranked 5th at 64 per cent—the highest in Atlantic Canada. All four Atlantic provinces had below-average shares of private sector employment as a share of total employment in 2019.

“One of the clear limitations to greater prosperity and higher living standards in New Brunswick is its underperforming private sector,” Whalen said.

(30)

MEDIA CONTACT:

Alex Whalen, Policy Analyst
Fraser Institute

To arrange media interviews or for more information, please contact:

Drue MacPherson, Media Relations Coordinator
604-688-0221 ext. 721

drue.macpherson@fraserinstitute.org

[Follow the Fraser Institute on Twitter](#) | [Like us on 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