



# NEWS RELEASE

## Wages and salaries lower in all four Atlantic provinces compared to every other province and every U.S. state

Oct. 3, 2024

For Immediate Release

**HALIFAX**—The median employment earnings—wages, salaries and self-employment income—of workers were lower in every Atlantic province than in every other province in Canada and every state in the United States, finds a new study published today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think-tank.

“Workers in Atlantic Canada earn less compared to workers everywhere else in Canada and the United States,” said Alex Whalen, senior policy analyst at the Fraser Institute and co-author of *Our Incomes Are Falling Behind: Earnings in the Canadian Provinces and U.S. States, 2010-2022*.

Specifically, among the 10 provinces and 50 U.S. states, stated in Canadian dollars, median employment earnings in 2022 (the latest year of available data) were lowest in Prince Edward Island (\$28,784), New Brunswick, (\$32,175), Nova Scotia (\$32,178), and Newfoundland and Labrador (\$32,713).

Consequently, compared to nearby Maine (\$42,676), median employment earnings were significantly lower in P.E.I. (by 32.6 per cent), New Brunswick (24.6 per cent), Nova Scotia (24.6 per cent), and Newfoundland and Labrador (23.3 per cent).

“Atlantic Canadians should want to know why workers in states such as Maine and Mississippi make significantly more money than workers here at home,” Whalen said.

“In light of the close connection between incomes and living standards, policymakers across Atlantic Canada should make economic growth a top priority.”

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