

NEWS RELEASE

Atlantic provinces rank last among all provinces and U.S. states in annual economic freedom rankings

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For Immediate Release

HALIFAX—All four Atlantic provinces rank last among the 10 Canadian provinces and 50 U.S. states in the annual ranking of economic freedom in North America, finds a new report released today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan, public policy think-tank.

New Brunswick remains the top-ranked Atlantic province (57th out of 60 Canadian provinces and U.S. states) followed by Nova Scotia (58th), Newfoundland and Labrador (59th) and Prince Edward Island (60th).

“Governments across the region continue to stifle economic freedom, which hurts economic growth and makes it more difficult for businesses to thrive and create jobs,” said Fred McMahon, the Dr. Michael A. Walker Research Chair in Economic Freedom at the Fraser Institute and co-author of this year’s [Economic Freedom of North America](#) report, which measures government spending, taxation and labour market restrictions using data from 2019 (the latest year of available comparable data).

Economic freedom—the ability of individuals to make their own economic decisions about what to buy, where to work and whether to start a business—is fundamental to prosperity.

In this year’s report, Alberta remained the highest-ranked province (33rd overall) followed by British Columbia (47th), Ontario (52nd), Saskatchewan (54th), Manitoba (55th) and Quebec (56th).

“As the level of economic freedom wanes across Canada, the economic prospects also diminish for Canadians and their families,” McMahon said.

The [Economic Freedom of North America](#) report is an offshoot of the Fraser Institute’s [Economic Freedom of the World](#) index, the result of more than a quarter century of work by more than 60 scholars including three Nobel laureates.

Detailed tables for each country and subnational jurisdiction can be found at www.fraserinstitute.org.

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