



NEWS RELEASE

Wages and salaries lower in Alberta than in every U.S. state including Mississippi and Texas

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For Immediate Release

CALGARY—The median employment earnings—wages, salaries and self-employment income—of workers were lower in Alberta than in every state in the United States in 2022, finds a new study published today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think-tank.

“Albertan workers earn less compared to American workers, regardless of the state,” 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, in Alberta, median employment earnings in 2022 (the latest year of available data), stated in Canadian dollars, were \$38,969, lagging behind every U.S. state including Mississippi (\$42,430), Louisiana (\$43,318) and Texas (\$44,223).

In fact, compared to Texas, a fellow oil-producing jurisdiction, median employment earnings were 11.9 per cent lower in Alberta.

Consequently, while Alberta was the richest province in 2022, it only ranked 51st out of 60 provinces and U.S. states for median employment earnings.

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

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

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