

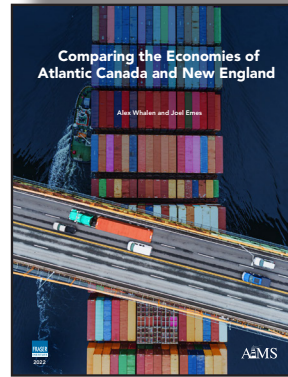
Looking at the labour market, the data again show a clear difference between the Atlantic provinces and New England states. Of the 10 jurisdictions measured, the four Atlantic provinces maintain the highest average unemployment rates, while the six New England states experience the lowest average unemployment rates. Newfoundland & Labrador had the highest average five-year unemployment rate at 11.6 percent while New Hampshire had the lowest average five-year unemployment rate at 2.9 percent.

Despite these differences in income and employment, the structure of the economy in each region is similar. With the exception of Newfoundland & Labrador, four main industries (manufacturing, real estate, health care and social assistance, and public administration) represent between 41.1 and 49.3 percent of the economy in the other Atlantic provinces and the New England states.

There are differences in some industries, however. Education services and construction account for higher shares of GDP in all four Atlantic provinces than in any of the six New England states. Meanwhile, professional, scientific, and technical services, as well as wholesale trade account for higher shares of GDP in all six New England states than in any of the four Atlantic provinces.

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All six New England states have higher income levels than all four Atlantic provinces.
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The median age is similar between the Maritime provinces and Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Also similar is the urban share of the population between the four Atlantic provinces and the same three New England States. These similarities exist despite the disparities revealed in income and employment. An examination of the policy factors that could be contributing to these differences offers a promising avenue for future research.



Comparing the Economies of Atlantic Canada and New England

By Alex Whalen and Joel Emes

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