

ABSTRACTS

EVANS, N.J. and J. POOLER: "Distance Deterrence Effects in Constrained Interaction Models of Interprovincial Migration": The role of migration in shaping internal population patterns is becoming more significant as the rate of natural increase stabilizes. There is a need therefore to develop spatial interaction models that estimate, and ultimately predict, migration flows. One trend, in recent years, has been towards the use of spatial interaction models derived from information theory. These have developed as an alternative to the classical gravity model, which has certain inherent deficiencies. In both types of model, however, the role of distance in interaction is a central concern. Previous use of information theoretic, entropy maximizing spatial interaction models in the study of population migration is limited. In the present study three versions of an entropy maximizing model, which differ with respect to the way that distance is represented, are compared empirically. Canadian interprovincial migration data covering a twenty-four-year study period are employed in order to test the models. It is shown that the models perform most effectively when distance is treated logarithmically and the implications of this in interpreting the model results, and population migration, are discussed.

OPPONG, J.R. and R.G. IRONSIDE: "Growth Centre Policy and the Quality of Life": Growth centre policy has been widely used as a strategy for reducing regional inequality, but there is no general agreement on its effects on backward regions. It has been suggested that growth centre policy may have differential impacts on different groups of people in a region, and this has usually been measured by income differences, or some similar indicator. However, the question of the impact of the policy on the overall quality of life available to the people is rarely examined. Evaluations have usually been based on criteria determined by non-residents, without any consideration for the aspirations and perceptions of residents. High Prairie was designated a growth centre in the early 1970s and was selected, consequently, as a location for government offices and other public investments. This paper examines the impact that High Prairie has had on the quality of life available to its residents and the people living in two communities

within its hinterland—Grouard and Gift Lake. The results indicate that the use of the growth centre policy has been highly beneficial to High Prairie but not as much to its hinterland. A sharp quality of life gradient exists between High Prairie and Gift Lake.

MURRELL, D. and A. TURKIEWICZ: "Determinants of Urban Price Levels in Canada: A Test of Two Theories": Current empirical literature posits two alternative explanations of inter-city price level differences: land rent theory, and agglomeration theory. Rent theory states that city price levels rise with city size; agglomeration/congestion theory predicts that urban prices decline with the size of the city. But so far investigators have tested only their favoured theory for a given data set. This paper tests both theories for twenty-one Canadian cities, and finds that, for two of the three consumer components tested, both theories can be said to work if only goodness of fit and t-statistics are used. Therefore, nested model testing is undertaken to choose the best model.

ANDERSON, W. P.: "Manufacturing Investment in Canada's Regions": A model of capital investment in the manufacturing sector is estimated for six Canadian regions over the period 1962-1981. The results indicate that investment is generally sensitive to changes in the prices of capital and labour, but less sensitive to changes in the prices of electricity and fuels. The model employs a partial adjustment parameter, which indicates significant regional variations in the dynamics of capital formation.

TREMBLAY, R.: "Le rôle des exportations dans la croissance économique des régions et des pays": This note attempts to identify the role of exports in the economic growth of regions and of countries. There are two principal dimensions of this role: contribution to productivity growth, and structural effects. A supply model is tested for nineteen OECD countries in order to verify the former. A demand model is then used in order to determine if the income-elasticity of import demand can impede growth. The results reinforce the notion that export promotion or trade liberalization should not be undertaken without giving careful consideration to economic structure.

LEGER, P. C.: "The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Quo Vadis?": There is considerable evidence that the federal government has had a long-standing commitment to accelerating regional growth and reducing economic disparities in Atlantic Canada. Unfortunately, the efforts of the past several years have only been partially successful. The most recent effort in this area, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, an organization characterized by decentralized decision making and an increased budget, must make a fundamental choice: promoting a higher level of development within the present

economic structure; or promoting a restructuring of the economy through technological development and associated human resource development. The path that is chosen could significantly influence the direction of the Atlantic economy for years to come.

MEHMET, O.: "The NIC Challenge and the Changing Structure of World Trade: Some Implications for Canadian Regional Development Policy" This paper examines the NIC (Newly Industrialized Countries) challenge, in order to infer policy guidelines for regional development in Atlantic Canada. Neither neoclassical equilibrium analysis nor the dependency model of regional underdevelopment are adequate for a new Atlantic development strategy in the context of the changing world economy. A serious effort at promoting *endogenous development*, featuring a regional refugee/immigration policy financed along the lines of standard Keynesian fiscalism is recommended.