

Abstracts

SMIT, B., M. BRKLACICH, and T. PHILLIPS: "Evaluating Ontario's Potential for Food Production". This paper describes a set of mathematical programming procedures for evaluating food production potential relative to specified production targets and applies these techniques to the Ontario agri-food system. The procedures are designed to estimate the extent to which current and future targets for food production could be met or exceeded, given a base set of conditions and selected adjustments to them. Adjustments to supply-side conditions include reductions in Ontario's land supply owing to urban expansion, increases in crop yields associated with technological change, and agricultural land drainage. The analysis indicates that under the base conditions Ontario's potential for food production exceeds current levels by about 30 percent. The projected food targets for 2000 would surpass this current production potential, but advances in crop breeding and agricultural land drainage could boost Ontario's potential for food production beyond these specified increases.

ANDERSON, F. J.: "Regional Trade and Adjustment with Expenditure Effects". A modified Heckscher-Ohlin-Samuelson (HOS) model is used to examine the effects of terms of trade, resource endowments, and technology shocks on the real wage in a regional economy characterized by perfectly mobile capital and imperfectly mobile labour. Consistent with booming sector trade theory, import-competing products are imperfect substitutes for imports. This gives an important role to expenditure effects. Regional real wage shocks are allowed to trigger migration and migration-induced expenditure effects in the very long run. With or without induced migration, the equilibrium properties of the model are a blend of both neoclassical and Keynesian influences.

PHIPPS, S. A.: "Regional Differences in the Incidence of Poverty in Canada". This article explores some of the reasons for regional differences in the incidence of poverty in Canada. For this purpose, probit equations are estimated to predict the probability of poverty incidence for each region using microdata from the 1986 Statistics Canada Family Expenditure Survey. A simulation exercise using the

estimated probit equations indicates, for example, that poverty incidence among households in Atlantic Canada (with heads under 65) would fall by 9 percentage points if all heads of household had access to the mean weeks of full-time work available in Ontario.

PROULX, M.-U.: «Réseaux utilitaires spatialisés et dynamique économique» [“Space Organization Networking and Local Economic Dynamism”]. In recent years, many European regional scientists have been examining the role of the local environment (milieu) as an incubator of economic activities. On the basis of this general postulate, this article isolates the communication factor through the use of a “network and networking” notion. Using empirical findings on the 95 MRC environments (Municipalités régionales de comté) of Quebec, the author shows that space organization networking undoubtedly plays an important role in the creation of small- and medium-sized organisations.

DUHAIME, G.: «Contraintes économiques à l'autonomie. Une matrice de comptabilité sociale du Nunavik (Canada)» [“Economic Constraints to Political Autonomy. A Social Accounting Matrix of the Nunavik (Canada)”]. The Nunavik, the arctic portion of the Quebec territory, is aiming at political autonomy. This paper provides a comprehensive analysis of the regional economy, based on new data created following the method of social accounting matrices. The results show a basic fiscal dependency. The study concludes that the installation of a responsible regional government for Nunavik will need a statutory method of public funding.

FERGUSON, M. R., P. S. KANAROGLOU, C. M. DUFOURNAUD, and P. FILION: “Provincial Variations in the Determinants of Retrofitting Behaviour in the Context of the CHIP and COSP Programmes: 1. Dwelling Characteristics”. This paper examines the retrofitting behaviour of Canadian households as it is affected by the characteristics of their dwellings. Specifically, the reactions of households to the Canadian Home Insulation Programme (CHIP) and the Canadian Oil Substitution Programme (COSP) are analyzed for the 1979-1982 time period. Binary logit analysis is applied to the 1982 Household, Income, Facilities, and Equipment (HIFE) data set. Evidence is provided that the age, size, type, and condition of a dwelling are significant predictors of retrofitting behaviour. A dependency on foreign oil and a higher degree of conservation awareness distinguish the Maritimes from other provinces.

MACDONALD, W. S.: “Structural Change in the Economic Base of the Maritime Provinces”. Some rather fundamental changes occurred in

the industrial structure of the Maritime provinces between 1971 and 1986. As with Canada as a whole, most of the new jobs created over the period were located in the services sector rather than the goods-producing sector of the economy. Similarly, the more urbanized areas of the Maritimes accounted for the largest proportion of jobs and total population growth. Despite the shift toward services, it is evident that there is still a heavy dependence on the primary industries in the less urbanized areas of the three provinces. It is becoming clear that future employment prospects for local areas that are not highly urbanized will be more closely tied to growth in the services industries and the development of specialized skills and abilities than in the past. A well-educated and highly trained labour force will be the most important factor in separating the areas that prosper from those that do not.