

Abstracts

JOSEPH, A.E., and R.G. HOLLETT: "When I'm 65: The Retirement Housing Preferences of the Rural Elderly". Residential choice represents an attractive focus for research on the implications of population aging for individuals and the communities in which they reside. At the micro-level, concerns have been expressed about the fit between existing housing and the shelter and support needs of seniors. At the macro-level, there has been debate about the ability of communities to cope with expanding numbers of elderly. This paper seeks to contribute to an understanding of these issues by exploring the residential preferences of the pre-elderly (55-64) for their retirement. A case study featuring conjoint analysis of survey data drawn from a rural dispersed and a rural nucleated community in southern Ontario is introduced as a complement to the theoretical discussion. The results indicate that a desire to downsize the home upon retirement is predominant, even to the point of a willingness to trade-off preferred location. Furthermore, the results suggest that service enriched retirement communities have to combine appropriate design with attractive pricing in order to beat out competition from conventional (rural and suburban) homes.

BOUGRINE, H.: "The Role of Capital Formation in Economic Disparities Among Canadian Regions: 1961-1990". This paper reports on an empirical examination of the role capital formation has played in the creation of economic disparities among Canadian regions over the period 1961-1990. It also examines the implications of the change that has occurred in the industrial structure of the regional economies during the same period. The results point to the strong cumulated effect of investment decisions on observed disparities in employment, output and population.

MARTIN, F.: "L'impact régional de l'Accord de libre-échange nord-américain (ALÉNA) selon le paradigme régional-international [Assessing the Regional Impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Using the Regional/International Paradigm]". This paper introduces a new paradigm: the regional/international approach combined with cluster analysis to determine the regional impact of the proposed NAFTA. More precisely, this paper examines the impact of free trade on Quebec's fashion industrial cluster. The results are not encouraging, not so much because of the competition from a low-wage country (Mexico), but because of the poor quality of the cluster.

SEMPLE, H., and R.G. IRONSDIE: "The Impacts of New Resource Industry on Recipient and Adjacent Municipalities". The conventional wisdom concerning the impact of large industrial projects on communities is that they bring employment but less overall benefits than are expected in light of the costs incurred. This study examines the impact of two pulp mills built by Proctor and Gamble near the City of Grande Prairie in the early 1970s and by Daishowa recently near Peace River town. It differs from previous research by including the impact on host municipalities as well as major adjacent ones. Measurement is in terms of population, employment and expenditures as well as those of municipal finances. Inter-municipal tax revenue sharing is explored.

FRÉCHETTE, P., P. VILLENEUVE, M. BOISVERT, and M. THÉRIAULT: "Évaluation des retombées économiques régionales de l'Université Laval à l'aide d'un modèle calculable d'équilibre général [Estimating the Regional Economic Impact of Laval University Using a Computable General Equilibrium Model]". This paper presents a simulation model of the metropolitan area of Quebec City which is based on a regional social accounting matrix (SAM). Derived from the SAM of the province of Quebec by means of a proportional method, the SAM for Quebec City serves as a base solution in building a computable general equilibrium model. This model can simulate the effects of various demand or supply shocks on the regional economy. As an example, the regional economic impact of Laval University was estimated for 1991-92.

MYATT, A.E.: "Provincial Unemployment Rate Disparities: A Case of No Concern?". Provincial unemployment rates and unemployment rate disparities are modelled using a reduced form approach. The influence of regionally specific variables is decomposed into two parts: that due to differing "endowments" and "sensitivities". Lacking good historical data on provincial real GDP, we use the national business cycle plus regional impact proxies. It seems the periphery is relatively more sensitive to real interest rates, and the industrial heartland to exchange rates. Changes in real energy prices have plausible, though not economically significant, effects. Changes to the Unemployment Insurance Act have strong overall effects and high unemployment rate provinces appear more sensitive to these changes. Indirect evidence is found suggesting the importance of provincial tax "wedges".

LEMELIN, A.: "Matrices régionales de comptabilité sociale et flux implicites d'échanges interrégionaux [Regional Social Accounting Matrices and Implicit Interregional Trade Flows]". Based on the 1984 social accounting matrix developed for Quebec by Lefebvre, Mayer and Morin, a matrix was constructed for the Montreal metropolitan area using the same techniques as Fréchette et al. for the Quebec metropolitan area. Combining the three matrices reveals the implicit interregional trade flows. Particular attention is paid to trade in government services and public health and education.