

ABSTRACTS

RUSHDY, S., G. C. POWER, and P. G. CADDEN: "Housing Policies for a Newly-Created Resource Town: A New Application of the BOOM H Simulation Model in Canada": The rapid growth of a new resource town may lead to short-term problems of housing shortage and unaffordability that justify policy initiatives by the public sector. The mitigating effects of possible demand-side and supply-side policies can be experimentally simulated by running the BOOM H computer model of boomtown development. When calibrated with data representing a hypothetical resource extraction plant, the model showed that actions which reduce housing prices are counterproductive unless accompanied by supply incentives and guarantees. The optimal housing policy combined the early provision of municipal services, a reduction of retail investment risk, the prebuilding and banking of both permanent and temporary housing, the subsidization of low income families, and the subsidization of lot servicing costs.

VILLENEUVE, P. and D. ROSE: "Labour Force and Industrial Restructuring in the Quebec City Region, 1971-1981": Recent hypotheses found in the literature on the role of the labour force in industrial relocation processes are first discussed. These hypotheses then guide an empirical analysis of the sectoral and spatial restructuring of manufacturing in the Quebec City Region. The analysis suggests that restructuring takes place in different ways in urban, suburban and rural environments. These differ substantially on a number of empirical indicators. The division of labour along gender lines is found to be particularly crucial. The analysis also shows significant internal diversity in each of these environments.

STABLER, J. C.: "Branch Line Abandonment and Prairie Towns—One More Time": The discussion of whether branch line abandonment would spell the doom of Prairie communities from which they were withdrawn has gone on for twenty-five years. Strongly held views on both sides of the question have been vigorously presented. Until recently so few communities had experienced abandonment that it was not possible to empirically determine its effect. During the

1970s, however, branch lines were removed from several dozen Prairie towns. In this paper the experience of communities from which branch lines were removed is compared with that of centres of like size in similar locations that retain these facilities. It was not possible to identify a systematic difference between those losing and those retaining their branch lines.

MARCHAND, C.: "Biais régionaux et sectoriels dans la transmission des fluctuations économiques": Spectral and cross-spectral analyses have identified the manufacturing sector as the sector diffusing major and minor cycles across the industrialised core of Canada; that is, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia. The remaining provincial economies are solely influenced by a Juglar cycle which this time is spread by the finance and commerce sectors, the latter having 70 percent of the variation in their employment explained by such fluctuations.

RABEAU, Y. and P. SANTOS: "Les salaires et les régions : résultats supplémentaires à l'aide de micro-données": In this paper, micro-data from Labour Canada are used to estimate regional models of wage determination. Besides standard Phillips curve variables such as unemployment rate and inflationary expectations, the models contain at the regional level variables found in models estimated with micro-data. However, it has not been technically possible to introduce interregional spillover effects in the model. Results from micro-data models are consistent with those obtained in time series models. Regional unemployment as well as inflation rates have a significant and regionally differentiated effect on wage variation. This exploratory approach seems worth pursuing; however, it involves heavy and complex manipulation of data.

BROX, J. A.: "Capacity Utilization and Productivity in Canada: A Provincial Analysis": This study estimates the Canadian potential output gap by region by applying a method of directly estimating the actual and potential factor utilization rates. The empirical results show that, for all regions except Quebec, capital utilization varies more than that of labour over the cycle.