

Abstracts

MACPHERSON, A.: "Small Manufacturing Firms and Canadian Industrial Development: Empirical and Theoretical Perspectives": This paper assesses the recent contribution of small industrial firms to Canadian manufacturing employment. The published data presented indicate a growing role for small manufacturers in a wide mix of industries, including the traditional ones. A partial explanation of the vitality of the small-business sector is offered. Discussion of the roles of corporate fragmentation, new manufacturing technology, and product innovation is complemented by an examination of recent survey data from a sample of over 100 small manufacturers in Toronto. It is argued that producer service inputs play an important role in the product development effort of small firms that serve industrial markets. Moreover, part of the growth of the small-firm sector can be attributed to a process of vertical and horizontal disintegration within manufacturing. The paper concludes by outlining some of the key factors associated with competitive success at the small-firm level.

BOOTS, B. N., and A. HECHT: "Spatial Perspectives on Canadian Provincialism and Regionalism": Although Canada is one country, strong regional identities have always existed. In part, these reflect the operation of two major, sometimes conflicting, forces: "province-building" by which individual provinces aim at becoming as independent and powerful as possible and "nation-building" by which the federal government attempts to create a more economically homogeneous Canadian society. This paper attempts to determine the relative success of these two processes in spatial terms.

A discriminant analysis approach was applied to the information collected on 25 socio-economic variables for each of the 260 provincial census divisions in 1981. The extent to which membership of each division in its home province or in one of five major regions can be predicted using the study variables was explored. In all of the four discriminant analyses undertaken, the successful prediction rate was high (88-95 per cent), suggesting that from a spatial perspective the

province-building force is the dominant one. No evidence was found for the existence of non-provincial, economically homogeneous areas.

JOHNSON, J. A. and R. D. KNEEBONE: "Determinants of Aggregate Employment in Canadian Provinces": Knowledge of the magnitude of input price and output elasticities of labour demand for each Canadian province is viewed as a critical first step in any evaluation of the effectiveness of provincial and regionally differentiated federal employment policies. The results of this study strongly support the view that significant variation exists in these elasticities between regions in Canada and, in some cases, within regions as well.

TELLIER, L.-N.: "L'approche topodynamique : une nouvelle voie pour l'étude de l'urbanisation": In Third World countries development is usually accompanied by a radical upheaval of locational patterns of activities and populations. Urbanization phenomena can be scrutinized using not only a traditional demographic approach (at least when the required data exist), but also, as shown in this paper, a new approach based essentially on location theory. The topodynamic approach uses the Weber triangle problem for computer simulation of an observed evolution of a population spatial pattern. This paper presents the first empirical application of the approach by examining the case of Cameroon. This application reveals that with the topodynamic approach quite coherent projections are possible, even when, as is often the case for developing countries, the only available population data are for various cities for two different years.

MAZANY, R. L.: "Buyer Concentration: The Inshore Groundfish Processing Industry in Nova Scotia": The Nova Scotia inshore processing industry has been characterized as a competitive industry, yet substantial buyer concentration exists in individual ports. This paper analyzes the role of buyer concentration in ex-vessel price determination, concluding that actual buyer concentration is a less important determinant of price than the threat of potential competition from other buyers. This result suggests that the oligopsonistic structure of the processing industry in Nova Scotia does not necessarily translate into market power.

MURRELL, D., A. MYATT, AND A. RECTOR: "Reduced-Form Model of New Brunswick Lumber Production": This note measures the relative contributions of supply and demand factors in explaining New Brunswick's lumber production from 1970 to 1986. It estimates that 60 per cent of the province's lumber output can be explained by demand-side factors, 14 per cent by supply-side factors, and 5 per cent by seasonal factors. The Canada-U.S. exchange rate variable itself explains about 56 per cent of New Brunswick's lumber output. These

results indicate that national demand management policies play an important role in the growth of certain resource industries.

GRANT, J.: "Hard Luck: The Failure of Regional Planning in Nova Scotia": Experience has shown that some Canadian provinces have had considerable success with regional planning, while others must characterize their experiences as failures. Accounting for those regional differences requires some understanding of the factors affecting regional planning programmes in different parts of the country. This paper examines briefly the history of regional planning initiatives in one province, Nova Scotia, and attempts to account for the problems these initiatives faced there. It suggests that efforts to bring regional land-use planning to the region floundered on the rocks of political values and customs inimicable to rationality, efficiency, and expertise. Thus, in the future planners and economists must pay greater attention to local traditions and culture if they hope to avoid fiascos and failures.